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GEORGE WASHINGTON
BICENTENNIAL EDITION

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Fall, from the level of the Piazza to high water mark in a Rectangular course from the centre door: —

No.	Depth of Level	Fall Ft.	In.	⅛	Total Fall Ft.	In.	⅛	Remarks.
1	12	2	4	..	...	..	..	Beginning on the pavement of the Piazza, at the edge thereof, next the Grass: —
2.	do.	.	9	1	3	1	1	
3	do.	..	1	2	3	2	4	
4	do.	..	2	1	3	4	5	
5	do.	..	2	2	3	6	7	
6	do.	.	4	6	3	11	5	
7	do.	1	2	4	5	2	1	
8	do.	1	11	1	7	1	2	
9	do.	2	8	4	9	9	6	
10	do.	2	6	2	12	4	0	
11	do.	3	9	2	16	1	2	
12	do.	4	3	2	20	4	4	
13	do.	6	5	4	26	10	0	To the level, at the foot of the low. step at Gate Which is 156 feet from the pavement of the Piazza
14	do.	4	2	6	31	1	0	
15	do.	5	0	0	36	1	0	
16	do.	5	0	0	41	1	0	
17	do.	5	5	0	46	6	0	
18	do.	2	1	6	48	7	6	To Post & Rail Fence — 216 feet from the Piazza
19	do.	3	7	4	52	3	2	
20	do.	2	6	4	54	9	6	
21	do.	2	3	6	57	1	2	
22	do.	2	11	4	60	0	6	
23	do.	2	3	2	62	4	0	To a small locust — 276 feet from the Piazza
24	do.	2	3	.	64	7		
25	do.	2	3	2	66	10	2	
26	do.	.	2	.	67	.	.	To a Bank — 312 feet from the Piazza
27	do.	4	2	1	71	2	5	
28	do.	2	5	.	73	7	5	To the level of the Spring — at the Dairy — which is about 50 feet above high water mark.
29	do.	2	2	.	75	10	5	
30	do.	2	3	1	78	1	6	
31	do.	.	6	4	79	8	2	
32	do.	2	0	5	82	1	7	
33	do.	3	8	5	83	7	4	To the edge of the above Bank — 396 feet from the Piazza
34	do.	3	3	6	86	11	2	
5	do.	2	0	3	88	11	5	
6	do.	3	3	6	92	3	3	
7	do.	3	2	0	95	5	3	
8	do.	3	0	4	98	5	7	
9	do.	2	4	3	100	10	2	
0	do.	2	0	4	102	10	6	
1	do.	1	5	4	104	4	2	To a parcel of Briers — 492 feet from the Piazza
2	do.	1	2	–	105	6	2	
3	do.	1	.	1	106	6	3	
4	do.	Level			106	6	3	
5	do.	.	10	.	107	4	3	
6	do.	1	10	.	109	2	3	
7	do.	2	5	1	111	7	4	
8	do.	.	2	.	111	9	4	
9	do.	.	9	6	112	7	–	
0	do.	.	5	4	113	0	4	To a path up the Riverside — 600 feet from the Piazza.
1	do.	.	7	6	113	8	2	
2	do.	.	9	2	114	5	4	
3	do.	1	–	4	115	6	–	
4	do.	1	1	.	116	7	.	To the edge of the River Bank — 648 ft. from the Piazza.
5	do.	3	6	4	120	1	4	
56	H. Watr.	4	9	.	124	10	4	To High water Mark — 660 ft. from the Piazza

The distance in a rectangular line from the level of the pavement of the Piazza, to high water mark, is 660 feet — or 220 yards — and the elevation of it above the water is 124 f 10½ Inches. —

Washington's Survey of the Height of Mount Vernon Above the Potomac River

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

THE WRITINGS OF

George Washington

from the

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Clements Library, University of Michigan	[C.L.]
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Virginia Historical Society	[V.H.S.]
Virginia State Library	[V.S.L.]

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

THE WRITINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

*To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, November 1, 1798.

Mr. Anderson: Circumstances may render it necessary for me to make a journey to the Seat of Government: and letters which I expect every Post day, will determine whether I shall take it or not. If I go, my departure will be sudden, and how long I may be absent from home, is uncertain; I do not expect however, that it can exceed four, or at most five Weeks.

With respect to the Farms and Meadows I shall say but little; for as a rotation of Crops is agreed upon; and the fields designated for the Crops of next year; nothing more is necessary than to pursue *strictly* the means that are to carry them into effect, and to obtain, by every contrivance that can be devised, all the manure than can be *raised* or *made* for the Corn Crops, at the several Farms; For unless these fields are highly manured, the reduction of the quantity of ground for this article, will prove a ruinous measure; because all the succeeding Crops depend *entirely* upon the improvement these fields receive for Corn, of course, if that crop does not succeed, all the rest must fail

As the Meadows seem to be progressing in a very good, and proper train, I shall say nothing more, relatively to them, but to desire that you will proceed in the course you are in; and apply them to the uses mentd. in the Rotation.

. . .[1] useless. and the pipe, and lea . . . tolerably low, to enab . . . Negro children, to draw w[ater] . . .

The sooner the field N[egros] . . . [M]uddy hole is laid off for Peach . . . [p]lanted thereon the better it will be; on . . .

When this is done, let the fi . . . e rod (if the rows are intend . . . art) from the fence which di . . . Corn) from it: this will make . . . with the other fence leading to the Gum [spr,] at right angles; and the short rows will but against the fence which divides No 4 from No 5. Great care and pains must be taken in laying the list, and crossing of it, true, or the Trees will not be in a range more than one way, if they are that. A two pole rod would be too unwieldy to get his distance with between the rows; but it ought not to be less than one rod in length; and in taking his distance, he should be careful always to go straight, or his rows will be wider or narrower in proportion to his mistakes.

After the Wood at Muddy is all used, let the firing for Mansion house and your own be taken from the Wood South of the White Gate, where the thinning commenced last year.

Your enquiries after a distiller shd. be diligant, that I may not be put to a nonplus or sustain any injury from the interruption of the work for want of one after January.

The purchasing of Wheat, and selling of flour, I shall leave to your own judgment and discretion. But as the price of the former (except[2]

The work for the Carpenters, [Joiner], and Bricklayers; and the other . . . should have it executed; is contained on a seperate sheet of Paper; to be referred to.

It never was my custom to trust [solely] the measurement of my Corn by the Overseers. I *always,* when I had no Manager,

[1] The words indicated by leaders [. . .] are mutilated.
[2] A page or more seems to be missing from the press copy at this point.

and my Manager *always,* when I had one, or some other person, if absent or unwell, saw this service performed; to prevent mistakes, or to prevent an over report of the measurement by scantily filling the Barrel; And I request that you would see this done, when a sufficient quantity is shucked and ready for lofting.

And I desire moreover, at the farms where there are two Corn houses, that an estimated quantity of Corn, sufficient to answer all the purposes of the Farm from the first day of Jany. next, until the first, or middle of November ensuing, may be deposited in one of these, [the] doors locked and secured, and never opened until the arrival of the new Overseer.

At some convenient time (but before the wet weather sets in) the Barn at Dogue Run should have the Earth raised around the low, and hollow parts of it; in order that all water that descends from the Roof, and higher grounds, may run freely off; otherwise the moisture will penetrate through the Wall and fill the Cellar with Water or damps, which will rot the Sleepers and floor, as it did before.

A pump ought to be put unto the Well at Union Farm without delay, otherwise the well will[3]

... that the Crop is know ... proceeded from a sudden ... again; a safe way, especi ... money will soon be great, ... given to obtain a tolerable ... let the sales of the latter, ... Water to keep the Stones ... our purchases of Wheat ... the Mill ought to ... her in constant ... quantum of work, and judicious buying and selling, that the nett profit must arise. as Millers wages, &ca, &ca, are the same whether he grinds little or much. Due attention to flour barrels, or staves should be had, that no interruption should proceed from that cause.

[3] A page or more seems to be missing at this point.

I have just received a letter from a Mr. Parkinson of England (who may be expected with his family, and a number of domestic Animals every day) which has surprized me not a little; but as I shall leave with you, his letters to me, and my answer, I need not detail the cause of ... but shall give you my opinion of ... which may be shewn to him, if occasion should require it. I sincerely wish you health and success, and am your real friend and well wisher.

P. S. I request you will endeavour to be informed of the arrival of Genl. Lee, in Alexandria. Present [this] letter to him. Shew him Mr. Bushrod Washington's to me; ask him to correct his Deed to me, as I have done mine to him before sevl. Witnesses, that it may be admitted to record.

*WORK FOR CARPENTERS

1st.... To do all that is required at the Distillery before they quit it, that there may be no further call for their services at that place.

2d.... To cover (with Shingles) the fowl houses at the Mansion, making them tight and secure.

3d.... Next, complete the contemplated waste in the Mill Race, that the latter may not by giving way in the manner it does interrupt the work of the Mill, and call so frequently for labourers to repair the breaches.

4th... When these are done, to go to River farm and complete the Stables. the other Sheds, the brick work of which is already done.

5th... After the Sheds above mentioned are completed, then erect others in the manner which has been concluded on, for the Cattle and Sheep. Beginning with those for the former, West [of] the Barn.

6th. . . .When, the Work at River farm commences, let the old Barn be taken down very [care]fully, and the Shingles scantling and nails to the utmost extent they will go, be used before any *New* materials are provided.

7th. . . .If these several matters should be executed before any other directions are given the Post and Rail, or Planked fencing about the Mansion house may be repaired, or any thing else, which shall appear to require their labour more.

*WORK FOR THE JOINER

1st. . . .Finish the Garden Gates which he is about, which, so soon as done, have fixed in their places and painted (by Thoms Davis) with white lead.

2d. . . .Make door frames in the Cellar, according to Mrs. Washingtons request, and do any Jobs there, or about the house she may require.

3d . . . .Provide another hot bed for the Gardener. If the Sashes, now useless in the Greenhouse, can be applied, it would save time and expence.

4th. . . .Make a gate for the New Wall, in front of the house, exactly like those for the Gardens (rising in the middle) but may be single instead of double, as the latter are.

5th. . . .The Gardener wants Sashes, where the East door of the Green house is, in order to admit the Rays and warmth of the morning Sunshine. If making this the size of the door would answer his purpose, It may be done, but I do not incline to break the Wall above the door frame. If it is done, that entrance must be no [longer] used as a door, for the opening and shutting of which would soon destroy all the glass; nor any of the glass to be nearer the floor of the house [than] the windows in front are.

6.....The bottle rack may be repaired if it is [ca]pable of it. If not a new one must be made.

7.....If after doing these things he should want work, he may be preparg. Stuff for a Book case according to the directions given him.

*WORK FOR THE BRICKLAYERS

1st ....Davis, with those who are now with him, may continue sloping the hill, above the New Wall, in the manner I have directed him until it is time to throw up Earth for Brick making in the Spring, when

2d ....He and Muclas may proceed to that business and turn up enough to make at least Sixty thousand.

3d ....Upon reconsideration of the first Article, above, I believe it will be best for Davis and Muclus to proceed to digging Brick Earth immediately. For as the care of *all* the Stable horses, as well as the Jacks &ca. must devolve upon Peter, he will require assistance: of course, Mike must join him, and as Anthony will, probably be required to supply the House with Wood [it] will hardly be necessary to keep David [and] Muclus alone, at the slope before th[at] until they can be joined by the House g[ang]. When Davis (who understands the de-[sign] will be indispensably necessary to regu[late] the Work.

*To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, November 3, 1798.

Mr. Anderson: By the way of Boston, I have just received a letter from Mr Richd Parkinson, dated "Liverpool 28th. Augt. 1798"

The contents of this letter have surprised me; and that you may know from whence this surprise has proceeded, I shall lodge in your hands (as I am going from home, and may be absent four or five weeks) Mr. Parkinsons first and second letters to me; and my answer to him; (a duplicate, and I think a triplicate of which I forwarded).

By this correspondence you will perceive that, Mr. Parkinson, through the medium of Sir Jno Sinclair, had seen the Plans of my Mount Vernon Farms, and was acquainted with the terms on which they were to be *let.* These terms I also deposit with you. It appears moreover by his first letter, dated the 28th. of Augt. 1797, that he intended to be in this Country in the month of March; and by his second letter of the 27th. of Septr. following, that his arrival *might* be delayed until April or May. It is evident also, from the tenor of these letters that he knew my farms could not remain uningaged longer than the month of September. Yet, he neither comes; sends an Agent to act for him; nor even writes a line, to account for the delay; and to know on what footing his former proposition stood.

Under these circumstances, I had no more expectation of Mr. Parkinson's arrival (especially with such a costly Cargo as he represents) than I had of seeing Sir Jno. Sinclair himself, until his letter of the 28th. of August from Liverpool came to hand.

Nor under the circumstances I have detailed, (which will appear correct from the papers I leave) do I know what Mr. Parkinsons views now are. He surely could not expect, after having placed the Occupancy of one of my farms on a contingency, that is, his liking it upon an examination thereof; after promissing that this examination should take place by the month of May last; after letting me hear nothing more from him for a whole year; and after knowing that I was obliged to

make arrangements for the ensuing year by the month of September in the present year, to find a farm ready for his reception in Novr.

If he did not expect this, Mr. Parkinson stands in no other relation to me, than he does to any other Gentleman in this Country; and if he did expect it, it may with justice be observed, that, he has done so unwarranted by the information that was given him, and has entered upon the measure precipitately, having made no adequate provision for the heavy expence he is running into. But, as matters are circumstances, the question *now,* is not what ought to have been, but what can be done to serve him.

With respect to my paying £850 for the freight of the Vessel, it is beside the question altogether, for the best of all reasons, viz, because I have not the means. And with respect to the animals which are said to be embarked, I would put myself to greater, or less inconvenience in providing for them (upon just and reasonable terms) according to what shall appear to be his intention with respect to my River Farm. If it be to lease It on the terms which have been proposed. If there is a prospect of my being secure in letting it; and a prospect that the bargain will be durable; and lastly, if you can devise any expedient by which the business can be accomplished under existing circumstances, as they respect the coming and the going Overseers; the Negroes; Stock; and growing grain; I should be well disposed to lend all the aid in my power towards the temporary accomodation of the animals he has brought over. Except the Stallions, for whom, and more especially for their Keepers (who are generally very troublesome people) I have no conveniency at any of the Farms, and to suffer them to be in the Barns, or Stables with their horses, would be to risk the whole by fire. Nor have

I any place at the Mansion house for either horses or men, as the conveniences thereat, are not more than adequate to the permanent, and occasional demands by visiters.

In a word, under the present aspect of things; and without seeing Mr Parkinson or knowing under what auspices he comes, I scarcely know what sentiment to express respecting him; or what is proper to be done in this business; and therefore must leave it to you to form an opinion when you can take a nearer view of the subject, after his arrival, if this shd. happen during my absence, and act accordingly. To obtain a good tenant for River Farm, on just terms; with the prospects before mentioned, wd. be an inducement to me to go great lengths in a temporary accomodation: but if this is not to be expected from Mr. Parkinson, I feel no obligation on my part, to rectify mistakes which I had no hand in causing, and endeavoured to guard against. I remain etc.[4]

*To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letters from Fredericksburgh and Stratford, have both been received; and their contents will be attended to when the list of applications come under consideration.

Tomorrow (being requested thereto by the Secretary of War) I shall set off for Trenton. This, of course, will deprive me of the pleasure of seeing you, while you are on the promised visit to this County. It is necessary therefore I shd. inform you that, no report (as indeed I expected would be the case) has been made by Mr. Jesse Simms relative to Major Harrisons Land, adjoining my mill. And that, to my surprise, when I came to

[4] From a photostat of the original in Cornell University Library.

examine the details of your City property, more attentively than it was in my power to do, in the hurried manner in wch the list of it was presented, and to make enquiry into the value thereof, I found that instead of lots of the Standard size (as I took it for granted they were) that each of those lying on Pennsylvania Avenue have been split into two parts (having only 25 feet front to them) and for these half lots, that I am asked more than lots equally convenient sell at. To receive payments on such terms, when my object was solely to accomodate you, could hardly be expected.

If you are disposed to part with your land near Harpers Ferry; Your land in Loudoun; any unincumbered property in the City; or, in short, almost any other that can be rendered productive, at a reasonable valuation by disinterested men of good character, I would accept it in payment rather than make difficulties, or be involved in disputes; although you well know that nothing will answer my purposes like the money, of which I am in extreme want, and *must* obtain on disadvantageous terms. But it is not to be expected from hence that I will receive the former at an arbitrary price, which every well informed person knows it cannot command.

The Deeds which passed between you and me in the Month of April last, I sent to Mr. Bushrod Washington to have recorded; asking him at the sametime if they were not defective in proper recitals? Enclosed, or rather with this letter, Mr. Anderson will, when he hears of your being in Alexandria present you with his opinion thereon, with a Deed ready drawn, according to my Nephews directions for your signature. The one from me to you, I have acknowledged before Evidences, and request you will do the same by that from you to me. With great esteem etc.

*To WILLIAM B. HARRISON[5]

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1798.

Sir: It has often been in my mind to ask, (if your tenements near my Mill are not under leases already) whether you would be inclined to let them to me, for a term of years? for what term? and at what Rent?

I can assure you, most sincerely and candidly, that it is not because I want these tenements, that I make this enquiry; but to be relieved from Neighbours who are really a nuisance: and who could not live on the Land but by the practice of unjustifiable shifts. No care or attention within the compass of my power to use, can preserve my fields and Meadows from injuries, sustained by their Hogs, and other Stock. Rails are drawn from the Posts, in order to let in the latter, and slips made to admit the former, in many places through my ditches, to the destruction of my grain, and grass.

To guard against damages of this sort, is, I do aver, my *sole* inducement to this enquery. But it is not to be infered from hence, that I am disposed to pay a Rent disproportioned to the real value of the Tenements.

I need not to observe to you, Sir, that the land was originally poor; that it is exhausted beyond measure; that there is no timber on it; very little firing; and scarcely any Fencing. In short, that without aid from the adjacent Lands, which the tenants cannot obtain from the present Proprietors by *fair* means, the tenements cannot be supported much longer. This is a fair statement, and ought to be taken into consideration in fixing the Rent.

[5] Of Leesburg, Va.

Under these circumstances, it is scarcely necessary to add, that I am not inclined to take the Tenements upon a short lease; for the reasons before mentioned; and because I should be obliged to have recourse to my own land to supply the deficiencies of yours; and that in a very short time too, to render the fields of any use. Unless the term therefore, for which it is granted, is commensurate with the expence to which I, or mine would be run, It would not answer my purposes to rent it.

It is not my expectation, or desire to disturb the *present* tenants, or such as you may have engaged, the ensuing year. My views extend to the year after, *only,* presuming your arrangements are made for 1799. Your answer will be agreeable to, Sir, Yours etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, November 4, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 30 ultimo, with its enclosures, has been duly received. And, agreeably to the arrangements made for the meeting of the general Officers on or about the 10th inst, I intend setting out tomorrow for Trenton; but, as I shall have some business in the Federal City which may detain me for a short time, and shall travel with my own Horses, which must necessarily be slower than to go on with Stage Horses, it may be Sunday, the 11th inst, before I reach Trenton, should the meeting be there. I shall, however, make no unnecessary delay until I reach the place of destination.[6]

As, under present circumstances, it is not likely that Lodgings, especially in Trenton, could be had without some pre-

[6] On November 5 Washington set out from Mount Vernon for Philadelphia. His "Diary" states that he breakfasted at Susquehanna on November 8, to which he was escorted by the Harford County militia horse. He reached Philadelphia November 10. McHenry secured lodging for him at Mrs. Rosannah White's, No. 9, North Eighth Street, at the corner of Market Street.

vious arrangements, I have to beg the favor of your securing for me the best you can, convenient to your Office, or wherever our business is to be transacted, against my arrival. A lodging Room is all I shall want particularly for myself; my Secretary, Mr. Lear, will be with me, who will also want to be accommodated with a lodging room. There will be four servants and six or seven horses, which may or may not be accommodated at the same place with myself, according to circumstances.

I shall take on with me all the letters and papers in my possession relating to Applications, recommendations for Appointments &c.

P. S. I have never yet recd from the Superintendant, any acct of the quantity of Military Stores belonging to the U. S.[7]

To THE MARYLAND GRAND LODGE OF FREE MASONS

November 8, 1798.

Gentlemen and Brothers: Your obliging and affectionate letter, together with a Copy of the constitutions of Masonry, has been put into my hands by your Grand Master; for which I pray you to accept my best thanks.

So far as I am acquainted with the principles and doctrines of Free Masonry, I conceive it to be founded in benevolence, and to be exercised only for the good of Mankind; I cannot, therefore, upon this ground, withhold my approbation of it.

While I offer my grateful acknowledgments for your congratulations on my late appointment, and for the favorable sentiments you are pleased to express of my conduct, permit me to observe, that, at this important and critical moment, when high and repeated indignities have been offered to the

[7] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

Government of one Country, and when the property of our Citizens is plundered without a prospect of redress, I conceive it to be the *indispensable* duty of every American, let his situation and circumstances in life be what they may, to come forward in support of the Government of his choice, and to give all the aid in his power towards maintaining that Independence which we have so dearly purchased: And, under this impression, I do not hesitate to lay aside all personal considerations and accept my appointment.

I pray you to be assured that I receive with gratitude your kind wishes for my health and happiness, and reciprocate them with sincerity. I am etc.[8] [MD. H. S.]

*QUERIES PROPOUNDED TO MAJOR GENERALS HAMILTON AND PINCKNEY

Philadelphia, November 10, 1798.[9]

1st. Is an Invasion of the United States, by France, to be apprehended whilst that Power continues at War with Great Britain?

2d. In case such an Invasion should take place, what part of the United States, in their opinion, is most likely to be first attacked?

3d. Is it probable that the French will, in the way of exchange, or by other means, become possessed of the Floridas and Louisiana?

4th. In case of such an event, what, probably, will be the consequences, as they relate to the United States? What measures will be best to counteract them? And can those measures

[8] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

[9] Although dated November 10, Washington did not submit these queries to Hamilton and Pinckney until November 12. (See Washington's letter to Major Generals Hamilton and Pinckney under date of Nov. 12, 1798, *post.*)

be carried promptly into effect by the Commander in Chief of the Armies? or must they be previously submitted to the War Office? ☞ This question, it will be perceived presupposes a force in existence.

5th. What can be done to supply our *present* deficiency of Engineers? From whence, and by what means are they to be obtained? Should a *Frenchman* be employed *at any rate*?

6th. Would not riflemen, in place of Light Infantry, be eligable as a componant part of each Regiment? And in that case, would Ferguson's rifles claim a preference?

7th Under the idea that each grand division of the U. States is to furnish four regiments of the augmented force; and each state, according to the Census, the population, or medium between the two, is to raise its proportion; how many places in each (its extent being considered) and where, ought to be assigned as rendezvous'es during the Recruiting Service? At what place ought the *general* rendezvous in each State to be fixed, during the said period? And at what place, or places in the United States, ought the augmented force to assemble? If at more than one place, how many, where, and the number at each?

8th Of how many pieces of Ordnance, of what sorts, and of what Calliber, ought the Park of Artillery to consist, independently of what is attached to Brigades, or Regiments? And how many ought each of these to have?

9th. Would it be advisable (after an adequate force is Recruited) to withdraw the Troops which at present occupy the Posts on our Northern and Western Frontiers, replacing them with New raised Corps?

10th. Of how many Ranks do the French form their line of battle, *Generally?* Do they make use of Pikes much? and would it be an eligable weapon, with which to arm part of

our Soldiery, as that is the Nation with which we expect to contend? Genl. Pinckney may, from personal observation, be enabled to solve these two questions.

Queries, relative to smaller matters;

but meriting consideration, as an army is now commencing more systematically than formerly; the rules, regulations and distinctions in which, may give a tone to measures which may prevail hereafter.

1st. If the clothing of the Regiments, and the fashion of that clothing; with distinctions between one Regiment and another, are not already ordered by the proper authorities, and in train of Execution, what had they best be?

2d. Would not Cotton, or (still more so) Flannel, be advisable for Shirting, and linings for the Soldiery?

3d What had best the distinctions in dress, in the badges, and other peculiarities, between the Commander in Chief and his suit, and the Majors General and their Aids? between the latter, and the Brigadiers and theirs? And between these again and the Regimental Offrs? Also among the Regimental Officers themselves, Commissioned and non-commissioned? And whether the Staff (not in the line of the Army) of the different departments, both Commissioned and Warrant Officers ought not to be designated by their dress or some appropriate mark or badge? and in *every case* and at all times be compelled to wear them; as well for the purpose of denoting the corps to wch. they belong, as a mean by which irregularities, rioting, and improper conduct may be discovered with more ease.

4th As there has been many objections to, and remarks made upon, the black Cockade; (being that of Great Britain); might not something be devised by way of annexation thereto to distinguish it from that of any other Nation? I have seen, and it

appeared to have no bad effect, a small eagle (of Pewter, tin, and in some instances silver) fixed by way of button in the Centre of a rose cockade; which was not only very distinguishable, but somewhat characteristic.

The sooner these queries are taken into consideration and opinions given on them, the more agreeable will it be to[10]

*To MAJOR GENERALS HAMILTON AND PINCKNEY

Philadelphia, November 12, 1798.

Sir: Herewith you will be furnished with the Copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to me,[11] suggesting many important matters for consideratn and to be reported on.

It is my desire, that you will bestow serious and close attention on them and be prepared to offer your opinion on each head when called upon.

I also propose for your consideration and opinion, a number of queries which had been noted by me, previous to the receipt of the Secretary's letter (now enclosed). In stating these, I had endeavoured to avoid, and make them additional to, the objects which the Secretary of War, in a letter to me dated the 16th. Ult, informed me would be subjects for my consideration. I find however that several of them, in substance, are contained in his *last* letter. But as they were digested previous thereto and written I shall to save copying lay them before you as they are without expunging those parts which now appear in the Secretarys statement. With very great esteem &c.[12]

[10] From the draft in the *Washington Papers*. A clear copy by Washington is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress, as is also a rough draft by Hamilton of notes for his answers to these queries.

[11] McHenry's letter (November 10) is in the *Washington Papers* and is printed by Sparks in his *Writings of Washington*, vol. 11, p. 552.

[12] The signed letter, in the writing of Tobias Lear, is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*MEMORANDUM OF AN INTERVIEW

Tuesday, November 13, 1798.

Mr. Lear, My Secretary, being from our lodgings on business, one of my Servants came into the room where I was writing, and informed me, that a Gentleman in the Parlour below, desired to see me; his name was sent up. In a few minutes I went down, and found the Revd. Doctr. Blackwell, and Doctr. Logan there. I advanced towards, and gave my hand to the former; the latter did the same towards me, I was backward in giving mine. He possibly supposing from hence, that I did not recollect him, he said his name was Logan. Finally in a very cool manner, and with an air of much indiffence, I gave him my hand and asked *Doctr. Blackwell to be seated,* the other *took* a seat at the sametime. I addressed *all* my conversation to Doctor Blackwell; the other *all* his to me, to which I only gave negative or affirmative answers, as laconically as I could, except asking how Mrs. Logan did. He seemed disposed to be very polite, and while Doctr. Blackwell and myself were conversing on the late calamitous fever, offered me an asylum at his house if it should return, or I thought myself in any danger in the City. and two or three Rooms by way of accomodation. I thanked him slightly, observing there wd be no call for it.

About this time, Doctr. Blackwell took his leave, we all rose from our Seats and I moved a few paces towards the door of the room, expecting the other would follow, and take his leave also; instead of which, he kept his ground proceeded to inform me more particularly (for he had mentioned it before) that he had seen Genl. [la Fayette] at Hamburgh, and his lady and daughter (I think in France) and related many things concerning their health &ca. He said something also respecting an Interview he had had with our Minister, Mr. Murray in

Holland; (but as I wished to get quit of him; remained standing; and shewed the utmost inattention to what he was saying) I do not now recollect what the purport of it was; except that, he hurried from thence to Paris. His object being, he said, to get there before the departure of our Commissioners (as he called them).

He observed that, the situation of our Affairs in this Country, and the train they were in, with respect to France, had induced him to make the Voyage; in hope, or expectation or words to that effect, of contributing to their amelioration. This drew my attention more pointedly to what he was saying, and induced me to remark that, there was something very singular in this. That *he* who could be viewed as a private character; unarmed with proper powers; and presumptively unknown in France; should suppose he could effect what these gentlemen of the first respectability in our Country specially charged under the authority of the Government, were unable to do. With this observation he seemed a little confounded; but recovering, said, that not more than five person's had any knowledge of his going; that he was furnished by Mr. Jefferson and Mr. McKean with certificates of his Citizenship. That Mr. Merlin[13] President of the Directory of France, had discovered the greatest desire that France and America should be on the best terms. I answered, that *he* was more fortunate than our Envoys, for they could neither be received nor heard by Mr. Merlin or the Directory. That if the Powers of France were serious in their professions, there was a plain and effectual way by which that object could be accomplished, namely, to repeal the obnoxious arrets, by which the Commerce and Rights of this Country had been invaded; put an end to further depredations on both; and

[13] Antoine Christophe Merlin de Thionville.

make restitution for the Injuries we had received. A conduct like this I said would speak more forcibly than words, for that the latter never made an impression on my mind, when they were contradicted by actions. He said that the Directory was apprehensive that this Country, viz the Government of it, or our Envoys, I am not now sure which he mentd. or alluded to was not well disposed towards France. I asked what better evidence could be given in refutation of this opinion, than its long suffering of the outrageous conduct of that Nation towards the U States, and dispatching three Gentlemen of unquestionable worth, with ample powers to reconcile all differences, even at the expence of great sacrafices on our parts. He replied, they had taken of[f] the embargo and were making restitution of property, enumerating one instance I think. With respect to the embargo, I observed that taking it off, or continuing it on, was a matter of no great importance if, as I had been informed, our Vessels in French Ports were few. He said that the attempt at a Coalition of European Powers against France would come to nothing; that the Directory were undr. no apprehns. on [that ground] and that Great Britain would have to contend alone; Insinuating, as I conceived his object at the time to be, that we should be involved in a dangerous situation if we persisted in our hostile appearances. To this I finally replied that we were driven to those measures in self defence, and asked him if the Directory looked upon us as worms; and not even allowed to turn when tread upon? for it was evident to all the world that we had borne and forborne beyond what even common respect for ourselves required and I hoped the spirit of this Country would never suffer itself to be injured with impunity by any nation under the Sun. To this he sd. *he told Citizen Merlin* that if the U. S. were Invaded by France they wd. unite to a man to oppose the Invaders.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

November 13, 1798.

Sir: I observe by the concluding paragraph of your letter of the 10th. instant that you contemplate conferences between the Secretaries of State and of the Treasury and myself, for the purpose of obtaining auxiliary information from their departments. Several of the questions which you state seem indeed to require such information. But on reflection, it has occurred to me as most regular, that you should settle with those officers what it may be reciprocally deemed necessary and proper for them to communicate; to the end that they may themselves bring forward, either through you or directly to me as may be agreed, but without any previous application from me, such communications as the case shall be supposed to require. Wherever, too, I am to report a formal opinion, you will I dare say think with me, that the data upon which it shall be given ought substantially to be deposited with me in writing. Personal conferences besides, for more full explanation, may be useful and will be very agreeable to me. Allow me to request your speedy attention to this matter.

I find also, that the documents referred to in your letter of the 10th. inst. did not accompany it. As these will be necessary in forming an opinion on several points submitted to me in your letter aforesaid, and which I have communicated to Majr. Genls. Hamilton and Pinckney, I must beg you to furnish me with them without delay.

The documents referred to are as follows, viz, "List of persons who have been recommended for Commissions in the Army, with their letters of pretensions."

(N. B. A list of Applicants south of the River Potomac, and their letters, are in my hands. The list and letters from the other parts will be wanting)

"Returns and Letters from Brigad. Genl. Wilkinson shewing the stations and number of the Troops on the N. Western and Southern frontier."

"Return shewing the description, places of rendezvous, stations and number of Troops, *now* on our Seaboard frontier."

"Return from the Superintendent of Military Stores, shewing the quantity and kinds of Cannon, Field artillery, Military Stores, and other Articles now on hand belonging to the U. S."

(N. B. This Return shd. also exhibit the places at which these are deposited, and the quantity at each place)

To these must be added the estimate which you had made out of the monies which you conceived wd. be required for Military services, and the times at which the same might be wanted.

I have in my hands a list of the Genl. and Field Officers who served in the Revolutionary War, and of the Captains and Subalterns from the States so. of the Potomac. You will therefore be pleased to add to the documents a list of the Captains and Subalterns, from the other States, that the whole may be before me. I am etc.[14]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, November 14, 1798.

Sir: In order to form an opinion on the query contained in your letter of the 10th instant, Whether it will be best to furnish Rations for the Troops by Contract, or by purchasing and issuing Commissaries, it will be necessary that I shd. know the prices of Rations, now pd. by Contract, at the several places where Troops are Stationed. You will, therefore, be pleased to add this to the documents which I yesterday requested you to furnish. With great esteem etc.[15]

[14] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton and Tobias Lear.
[15] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Philadelphia, November 22, 1798.

Dr. Sir: Your letter of the 13th. Inst. enclosing a publication under the signature of Gracchus, on the Alien and Sedition laws, found me at this place deeply engaged in business.

You ask my opinion of these Laws, professing to place Confidence in my judgment for the Compliment of wch. I thank you. But to give Opinions unsupported by reasons, might appear dogmatical, especially as you have declared that Gracchus has produced "the rough conviction in your mind of the unconstitutionality and inexpediency of the acts above mentioned." To go into an explanation on these points, I have neither leisure nor inclination, because it would occupy more time than I have to spare.

But I will take the liberty of advising such as are not "thoroughly convinced" and whose minds are yet open to conviction to read the pieces and hear the arguments which have been adduced in favor of as well as those against the Constitutionality and expediency of those laws before they decide. And Consider to what lengths a Certain description of men in our Country have already driven and even resolved to further drive matters and then ask themselves if it is not time and expedient to resort to protecting Laws against aliens (for Citizens you certainly know are not affected by that law) who acknowledge no allegiance to this Country, and in many instances are sent among us (as there is the best Circumstantial evidence to prove) for the express purpose of poisoning the minds of our people and to sow dissentions among them, in order to alienate their affections from the Government of their Choice, thereby endeavoring to dissolve the Union, and of Course the fair and happy prospects which were unfolding to our view from the

Revolution. But as I have observed before I have no time to enter the field of Politicks, and therefore shall only add my best Respects to the good family at New Post, and the assurances of being, Dr. Sir etc.[16]

*To LAWRENCE LEWIS

Philadelphia, December 2, 1798.

Dear Lawrence: Your letter of the 21st. Ulto. has been duly received. In reply, I have to observe that, the end of my enquiry into the cause of my not seeing you the morning I left Mount Vernon, has been altogether mistaken. It was not from a supposed disrespect on your part, but not being able to recollect whether you were at breakfast, and the apparent slight, if you had been too unwell to leave your room, in coming away without seeing you, that led to it. I never had cause to suspect any want of respect from you, or disinclination to oblige me in all things; and as I came away without seeing you, and supposed it proceeded from your indisposition, I wanted you to understand, that my appointment to be in Alexandria at a certain hour, my anxiety to accomplish it, and the pressure of many things upon me until the moment I stepped into the Carriage was the cause of my not bidding you adieu the morning I left home.

I wish Parkinson's emigration to this Country may answer his own purposes. It is done without previous arrangement; and when measures *commence* badly, they seldom *end* well. I have nothing to do with him or his property. On the contrary I advised him (in answer to a letter he had written me more than a year ago) to come himself, or send an Agent to see, and report things to him, before he embarked his property, on a precarious result.

[16] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

Making a selection of Officers for the twelve new Regiments, and arranging them to the different States, is a work of infinite more difficulty than I had any conception of. The applications for Commissions are multitudinous, and the pretensions of each, from former services, particular merits, and other causes, must be individually examined; and a due apportionment allotted to each State. When this will be accomplished I am not yet able to say. I shall think of your own wishes, as expressed in your letter. and if any thing *can* be done which Mr. Lear and myself may think agreeable to you, it shall.

I cannot with any certainty say, when I shall be able to leave this City. I think however the business must close this week after which I shall not stay a moment longer than I can avoid. In order to bring it to an end we set from ten oclock until after three, and from Seven in the evening until past nine. With much sincerity and truth, I am etc.[17]

*To PHILIP SCHUYLER

December 4, 1798.

My dear Sir: I have been honored with your letter of the 20th. Ulto. and congratulate you, very sincerely on the favorable change you have lately experienced (as I am informed) in your health. I wish it may be perfectly restored. I persuade myself, that it is unnecessary for me to add that, if health and other circumstances had enabled you and Mrs. Schuyler to have visited Mrs. Washington and myself at Mount Vernon, that it would have been considered as a most pleasing and flattering evidence of your regard. And the most so, as neither she nor I, ever expected to be 25 miles from that retreat during the remnant of our lives. But, strange to relate, here I am!

[17] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

Busied in scenes far removed, and foreign from any I had contemplated when I quitted the Chair of Government.

Your Grandson, Mr. Church,[18] has all the exterior of a fine young man, and from what I have heard of his Intellects, and Principles will do justice to, and reward the precepts he has received from yourself, his Parents and uncle Hamilton. So far then as my attentions to him will go, consistent with my other duties, he may assuredly count upon.

I pray you to present me (and I am sure Mrs. Washington would unite in them if she was here) to Mrs. Schuyler in the most respectful terms, and let me pray you to be assured of the sincere esteem, regard and wishes of the most affectionate kind of etc. [H. L.]

*To JOHN BARKER CHURCH

Philadelphia, December 4, 1798.

Sir: Mr. Church, your Son, did me the honor to present your favor of the 14th. Ulto.

His genteel and handsome appearance makes a favorable impression, and his constituting a part of General Hamilton's Military establishment is strongly indicative of his worth. These circumstances, with your recommendation of him, will ensure him every attention from me, that I can bestow with consistency. I have the honor etc.

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[18] Philip Church. He was appointed a captain in the Twelfth U. S. Infantry in January, 1799; aide-de-camp to Major General Hamilton in May, 1799; honorably discharged in June, 1800

On December 4 Washington wrote briefly to Philip Church, committing letters to his care. "If business, duty or inclination should ever call you into the State of Virginia, I shall be very happy to see you at Mount Vernon." This letter was sold at auction in 1931.

On this same day (December 4) Washington also wrote briefly to Mrs. Angelica Church, the mother of Philip: "From the handsome and genteel appearance of Mr. Church (your Son) and the favourable report of his merits by Genl. Hamilton, you have the most pleasing presages of his future usefulness and consequence; and as far as I can contribute thereto, consistently with my other duties he may freely command me." The draft of the letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

*To JUDGE ALEXANDER ADDISON

Philadelphia, December 6, 1798.

Sir: Your favor of the 21st. Ulto., enclosing thoughts on the "Liberty of Speech and of the Press" in a Charge to the Grand "Juries of the County Courts of the fifth Circuit of the State of Pennsylvania" has been duly received, and I pray you to accept my thanks for this fresh inste. of your attention and politeness to me.

I am persuaded I *shall* read it with the same pleasure, and marked approbation that I have done your other productions of a similar nature which have come to my hands. I say *shall,* because my occupations since I came to this City have been such as scarcely to afford me time to look into a News-paper. With great esteem etc.[19]

*To JOHN GREENWOOD

Philadelphia, December 7, 1798.

Sir: What you sent me last, answer exceedingly well; and I send the first to be altered and made like them, if you can.

Your recollection of these, with the directions and observations contained in my two last letters, the latter especially, supercedes the necessity of being particular in this.

I will however just remark that the great error in those (now returned to you) is, that the upper teeth and bars do not fall back enough thus but stand more upright, so by which means the bar at (a) shoots beyond the gums and not only forces the lip out just under the nose but by not having its proper place to rest upon frets, and makes that part very sore.

[19] From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, 1914. The original is in the Chapin Library, Williamstown, Mass.

I shall add no more than to request you will be so good as to let me have them as soon as you conveniently can; altered or not altered. Direct for me at this place, or at Mount Vernon, as it is not likely I shall be here more than two or three days longer.

I thank you very much for your obliging attention to my requests, and am Sir

With esteem and regard, etc.

P. S. I am willing and ready to pay what ever you may charge me.[20]

*To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Philadelphia, December 10, 1798.

Sir: Enclosed is the Copy of a letter which I had the honor to write you by a Ship called the Suffolk; unfortunately, as I have just been informed, Captured by the French.[21] As none of my letters ever get out of their hands I have, that I may not appear inatentive to the honor of your correspondence, forwarded a copy of it. With great esteem and respect, I am, etc.[22]

*To JOHN GREENWOOD

Philadelphia, December 12, 1798.

Sir: Your letter of the 8th. came Safe. And as I am hurrying, in order to leave this City tomorrow, I must be short.

The principal thing you will have to attend to, in the alteration you are about to make, is to let the upper bar fall back from the lower one thus ; whether the teeth are quite straight, or incling a little in thus, or a little rounding outwards thus

[20] From the original in the Greenwood Bequest in the Library of Congress.

[21] The captured letter was that of July 10, 1798, *q. v.*

[22] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

is immaterial, for I find it is the bars alone, both above and below that gives the lips the pouting and swelling appearance; of consequence, if this can be remedied, all will be well.

I Send you the old bars, which you returned to me with the new set, because you have desired. But they may be destroyed, or any thing else done with them you please, for you will find that I have been obliged to file them away so much above, to remedy the evil I have been complaining of as to render them useless perhaps to receive new teeth. But of this you are better able to judge than I am. If you can fix the teeth (now on the new bars which you have) on the old bars which you will receive with this letter I should prefer it, because the latter are easy in the mouth. and you will perceive moreover that when the edges of the upper and lower teeth are put together that the upper falls back into the mouth, which they ought to do, or it will have the effect of forcing the lip out just under the nose.

I shall only repeat again, that I feel much obliged by your extreme willingness, and readiness to accomodate me and that I am, etc.[23]

[23] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by the late Joseph R. Greenwood, of New York. The original is said to be in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It is printed in George C. Mason's *Life and Works of Gilbert Stuart* under date of Oct. 12, 1798.

Greenwood answered (December 28): "I send you inclosed two setts of teeth, one fixed on the Old Barrs in part and the rest you sent me from philadelphia which when I Received was very black. Ocationed either by your soaking them in port wine, or by your drinking it. Port wine being sower takes of all the polish and All Acids has a tendency to soften every kind of teeth and bone. Acid is Used in Coulor-ing every kind of Ivory, therefore it is very perncious to the teeth. I Advice you to Either take them out After dinner and put them in clean water, and put in another seett, or Cleaen them with a brush and som Chalk scraped fine, it will Absorbe the Acid which Collects from the mouth, and preserve them longer. I have found another and better way of useing the sealing wax, when holes is eaten in the teeth by acid &ca. first Observe and dry the teeth, then take a peice of Wax and Cut it into As small peices as you think will fill up the hole, then take a large nail or any other peice of Iron and heat it hot, into the fier, then put your peice of wax into the hole. and melt it by meanes of introduceing the point of the Nail to it. . . . if your teeth Grows black, take some chalk and a pine or Cedar stick, it will rub it of. If you whant your teeth more yellower soake them in Broath or pot liquer, but not in tea or Acid. Porter is a Good thing to Coulor them and will not hurt but preserve them but

*To CHARLES CARROLL, JUNIOR

Philadelphia, December 13, 1798.

Sir: Mr. McHenry, secretary of War, communicated to me your wish to receive an appointment in the Corps of Light Dragoons, about to be raised.

Presuming that the inducement to this application could be no other than a laudable zeal to serve your Country, and a desire to set an example to the young Gentlemen of family and fortune in it; which, undoubtedly, would be attended with a happy effect; I informed him that although it was not my practice to compromit myself before hand, by promises; yet, in this instance, I would inform him, that it had been, and still was my intention (if circumstances should call me to the field,) to offer you a place in my Military family, as an extra: or Volunteer Aid de Camp; under a presumption that as you could not contemplate Arms as a *profession,* Rank could be no object, and I was sure that the pay of an Officer would be none; and therefore, that he was at liberty to hint this matter to you. In what light you may have understood him, I know not, which is the reason of my giving you the trouble of this explanation.

My established Aids de Camp, for reasons wch I had the honor of communicating to Mr. Carroll (your father), must be men of Military experience (if to be had); and in the choice of whom, many circumstances ought to combine.

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it must not be in the least pricked. You will find I have Altered the upper teeth, you sent me from philadelphia leaveing the enamel on the teeth dont, preserve them any longer then if it was of, it only holds the Color better, but to preserve them they must be very Often Changed and Cleained for whatever Atacks them, must, be repelled, as Often or it will gain Ground and destroy the works, the two setts I repaired is done on a different plan then when they are done when made intirely new, for the teeth are screwed on the barrs, insted of haveing the barrs Cast red hot on them, which is the reason I believe the destroy or desolve so soone, near to the barrs." The original of this letter is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. A photostat is in the Library of Congress.

It is unnecessary I hope to add, that at all times I shall be glad to see you at Mount Vernon, and with best respects to Mr. Carroll and the Ladies of your family I am etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, December 13, 1798.

Sir: You will observe that on the arrangement of the officers attested to New York there is an alternative of Wm. S. Smith or Abijah Hammond for Lt Colonel Commandant. Various considerations demand that the motive of his hesitation should be explained. Had military qualifications alone been consulted the name of Colonel Smith would have stood justly and he would have been deemed a valuable acquisition to the service. Had there even been no other source of objection than the erroneous political opinions of late attributed to him, his honor and attachment to his country would have been relied upon. But as well myself as the two generals whose aid I have had in the nominations have been afflicted with the information well or ill founded that he stands charged in the opinion of his fellow citizens with very serious instances of private misconduct; instances which affect directly his integrity as a man. The instances alleged are various but there is one which has come forward in a shape which did not permit us to refuse it our attention. It respects an attempt knowingly to pledge property to Major Burrows by way of securety, which was before conveyed or mortgaged for its full value to Mr. William Constable; without giving notice of the circumstances, and with the aggravation, that Major Burrows had become the Creditor of Col Smith through friendship to an amount which has proved entirely ruinous to him. While the impossibility of disregarding this information forbade the selection of Col Smith absolutely,

the possibility that it might admit of some fair explanation dissuaded from a conclusion against him.

As it will be in your power to obtain further lights on the subject it has appeared adviseable to leave the matter in the undetermined form in which it is presented and to assign the reason first. You are at perfect liberty to communicate this letter to the President. Candour is particularly due to him in such a case. It is my wish to give him every proof of frankness respect and esteem. Lest it should be suspected that Major Burrows has officiously interfered to the prejudice of Col Smith, it is but justice to him to declare that such a suspicion would be entirely without foundation. With great consideration etc.[24]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, December 13, 1798.

Sir: Since my arrival at this place I have been closely engaged, with the aid of Generals Hamilton and Pinckney, in fulfilling the objects of your letter of the 10th of November.[25] The result is now submitted.

The first two questions you propose, respecting the apportionment of the Officers and men of the troops to be raised, in virtue of the act of Congress of the 16th. of July last among districts and states, will naturally be answered together.

1 As to the apportionment of the Commissioned officers of the Infantry, no particular reason is discovered to exist at the present period for combining the states into districts; but it is conceived to be expedient to adopt as a primary rule the relative representative population of the several States. The practice of the government on other occasions in the apportionment

[24] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton.
[25] In the *Washington Papers*.

of public officers, has had regard as far as was practicable to the same general principle; as one which, by a distribution of honors and emoluments among the citizens of the different states, tends both to justice and to public satisfaction. This principle however must frequently yield to the most proper selection of character among those willing as well as qualified to serve, and sometimes to collateral considerations, which, arising out of particular cases do not admit of precise specification. In the application of the rule, as in other instances, qualifications of it must be admitted. The arrangement which will be now offered proceeds on this basis. You will observe that it does not deviate from the table you have presented. It is contained in the Schedule A.

2 As to the non commissioned officers and privates, it is conceived to be both unnecessary and inexpedient to make any absolute apportionment among the states. It is unnecessary, because, contemplating it as desirable that the men shall be drawn in nearly equal proportions from the respective states, this object, where circumstances are favourable, will be attained by the very natural and proper arrangement of assigning to the officers who shall be appointed recruiting districts within the states to which they are. It is inexpedient, because if it shall happen that the proportion of fit men cannot easily be had in a particular state, there ought to be no obstacle to obtaining them elsewhere.

3 As to the officers of the dragoons, it does not seem adviseable to confine the selection to any subdivision of the U States. Though very strong conjectures may be formed as to the quarter in which they would probably be employed, in the case of invasion, there can be nothing certain on this point if this were even the criterion of a proper arrangement. And it may be presumed that it will conduce most to the general satisfaction to

exclude considerations of local aspect. But from the small number of this corps, which is to be raised, it would be found too fractional and for that among [other] reasons inconvenient, to aim at a proportional distribution among all the states. It is therefore supposed most adviseable to be governed principally by a reference to the characters, who have occurred as candidates; leaving the inequality in the distribution to be remedied in the event of a future augmentation of this description of troops. The proportion at present is in various views inadequate; a circumstance which it may be presumed will of course be attended to should the progress of public danger lead to an extension of military preparation.

The materials furnished by you with the addition of those derived from other sources are insufficient for a due selection of the officers, it is proposed to allot to the States of Connecticut North and South Carolina and Georgia. Hence the selection for these states must of necessity be deferred. It is conceived, that the best plan for procuring the requisite information and accelerating a desirable conclusion as to the three last mentioned states, will be to charge Major General Pinckney, who will avail himself of the assistance of Brigadier Generals Davie and Washington, to make the arrangement of those officers provisionally, and subject to the ratification of the President. It will be in their power to ascertain who are best *qualified* among those *willing* to serve; which will at the same time assure a good choice, and avoid the disappointment and embarrassment of refusals. As to Connecticut, you are aware of the progress that has been made and of the misapprehension which has occasioned an obstacle to a definitive arrangement. You will it is presumed be speedily in possession of the further information necessary, and having it can without difficulty complete the arrangement for this State.

The 3d. 4th. and 5th. of your questions may likewise be answered together.

The act for augmenting the army is peremptory in its provisions. The bounds of executive discretion as to the forbearance to execute such a law might perhaps involve an investigation nice in its own nature and of a kind which it is generally most prudent to avoid. But it may safely be said negatively, for reasons too plain to be doubted, that the voluntary suspension of the execution of a similar law could not be justified but by considerations of decisive cogency. The existence of any such considerations is unknown.

Nothing has been communicated respecting our foreign relations to induce the opinion that there has been any change in the situation of the country, as to external danger, which dictates an abandonment of the policy of the law in question. It need not now be examined how far it may be at any time prudent to relinquish measures of security suggested by the experience of accumulated hostility, merely because there are probable symptoms of approaching accommodation: It need not be urged that if such symptoms exist they are to be ascribed to the measures of vigour adopted by the Government; and may be frustrated by a relaxation in those measures affording an argument of weakness or irresolution: For has it not been in substance stated from the highest authority that no decisive indications have been given by France of a disposition to redress our past wrongs and do us future justice, that her decree alleged to be intended to restrain the depredations of French Cruisers on our commerce has not given and from its nature cannot give relief; that the most hostile of the acts by which she has oppressed the commerce of neutrals, that which subjects to capture and condemnation neutral vessels and cargoes, if any part of the latter be of British production or fabric, not only has

not been abrogated but has recently received an indirect confirmation; and that hitherto nothing is discoverable in the conduct of France which ought to change or relax our measures of defence.

Could it be necessary to enforce by argument so authoritative a declaration as it relates to the immediate object of consideration these among other reflections would at once present themselves.

Though it may be true that some late occurrences have rendered the prospect of invasion by France, less probable or more remote: Yet, duly considering the rapid vicissitudes, at all times, of political and military events; the extraordinary fluctuations which have been peculiarly characteristic of the still subsisting contest in Europe; and the more extraordinary position of most of the principal nations of that quarter of the globe; it can never be wise to vary our measures of security with the continually varying aspect of European affairs. A very obvious policy dictates to us a strenuous endeavour, as far as may be practicable, to place our safety out of the reach of the casualties which may befal the contending parties and the powers more immediately within their vortex. The way to effect this is to pursue a steady system, to organize all our resources and put them in a state of preparation for prompt action. Regarding the overthrow of Europe at large as a matter not entirely chimerical, it will be our prudence to cultivate a spirit of self-dependence, and to endeavour by unremitting vigilance and exertion under the blessing of providence, to hold the scales of our destiny in our own hands. Standing, as it were in the midst of falling empires, it should be our aim to assume a station and attitude, which will preserve us from being overwhelmed in their ruins.

It has been very properly the policy of our Government to cultivate peace. But in contemplating the possibility of our being driven to unqualified War, it will be wise to anticipate, that frequently the most effectual way to defend is to attack. There may be imagined instances of very great moment to the permanent interests of this Country, which would certainly require a disciplined force. To raise and prepare such a force will always be a work of considerable time; and it ought to be ready for the conjuncture whenever it shall arrive. Not to be ready then may be to lose an opportunity which it may be difficult afterwards to retrieve.

While a comprehensive view of external circumstances is believed to recommend perseverance in the precautions, which have been taken for the safety of the country, nothing has come to my knowledge in our interior situation which leads to a different conclusion. The principal inquiry in this respect concerns the finances. The exhibition of their state from the Department of the Treasury which you have transmitted, as I understand it, opposes no obstacle; nor have I been apprised that any doubt is entertained by the Officer who presides in that Department of the sufficiency of our pecuniary resources. But on this point I cannot be expected to assume the responsibility of a positive opinion. It is the province of the Secretary of the Treasury to pronounce definitively whether any insuperable impediment arises from this source.

The sound conclusion, viewing the subject in every light is conceived to be, that no avoidable delay ought to be incurred in appointing the whole of the Officers and raising the whole of the men provided for by the act which has been cited. If immediately entered upon and pursued with the utmost activity, it cannot be relied upon that the troops will be raised and

disciplined in less than a year. What may not another year produce? Happy will it be for us if we have so much time for preparation, and ill-judged indeed if we do not make the most of it! The adequateness of the force to be raised in relation to a serious invasion is foreign to the present examination. But it is certain that even a force of this extent well instructed and well disciplined would in such an event be of great utility and importance. Besides the direct effects of its own exertions, the Militia rallying to it would derive from its example and countenance additional courage and perseverance. It would give a consistency and stability to our first efforts of which they would otherwise be destitute; and would tend powerfully to prevent great, though perhaps partial calamities.

The Senate being in session the officers to be appointed must of course be nominated to that body.

The pay of all who shall be appointed ought immediately to commence. They ought all to be employed without delay, in different ways in the recruiting service; but were it otherwise there ought to be no suspension of their pay. The law annexes it as a matter of right. The attempt to apply a restriction by executive discretion might be dissatisfactory; and justice to the public does not seem to require it because the acceptance of an office which makes the person liable at pleasure to be called into actual service will commonly from the moment of that acceptance interfere with any previous occupation on which he may have depended. This observation cannot be applicable to myself because I have taken a peculiar and distinct ground to which it is my intention to adhere.

On the subject of your sixth question the opinion is that under existing circumstances, it is not adviseable to withdraw any of the troops from the quarter of the Country, which you mention, towards the Atlantic frontier. But the disposition in those

quarters probably requires careful revision. It is not impossible that it will be found to admit of alterations favourable both to œconomy and to the military objects to be attained. The local knowledge of General Wilkinson would be so useful in an investigation of this sort, that it is deemed very important to direct him forthwith to repair to Philadelphia. If this be impracticable by land he may it is presumed come by way of New Orleans. It is observed that in his late communications with the Spanish Governor he has taken pains to obviate jealousy of the views of the U States. This was prudent, and he ought to be encouraged to continue the policy. It will also be useful to employ a judicious Engineer to survey our posts on the Lakes in order that it may be ascertained, in the various relations of trade and defence, what beneficial changes, if any, can be made. In this examination *Presque-Isle* and the *South Western extremity of Lake Erie* will demand particular attention.

The reply to your seventh question is that the companies directed to be added to the regiments of the old establishment ought as soon as convenient to reinforce the Western army. It is probable that in the progress of events they will be not less useful there than on the sea-board. Their destination in the first instance may be Pittsburgh.

The following disposition of the Artillery (the subject of your Eighth question) is recommended. The two Regiments by their establishment consist of 28 Companies; of these nearly a batalion, in point of number, forms part of the western army. A complete batalion there will suffice. Let there be assigned to the fortifications at Boston one Company, to those at New York two, to those at New port two companies, to those at West point one, to those at Mud Island two, to those at Baltimore one, to those at Norfolk two, to those on Cape Fear River one, to those at Charles town two, to those at Savannah one, to those

at the mouth of the St. Mary's one. The remaining two batalions had best be reserved for the army in the field. During the Winter they may retain the stations they now occupy. But as soon as they can conveniently go into tents it will be adviseable to assemble them at some central or nearly central point, there to be put in a course of regular instruction, together with successive detachments of the Officers and non-commissioned Officers of the sea board garrisons, until their services shall be actually required. The field Officers will of course be distributed proportionally, assigning to each the superintendence of a certain number of companies; and, as to those in garrison, of the posts at which they are stationed.

The permanent distribution of the troops after they shall have been raised which is understood to be an object of your Ninth Question will probably be influenced by circumstances yet to be unfolded, and will best be referred to future consideration.

An arrangement for the recruiting service is the point of primary urgency. For this purpose each state should be divided into as many districts as there are companies to be raised in it, and to every company a particular district should be allotted, with one place of rendezvous in it to which the recruits should be brought as fast as they are engaged: a certain number of these company districts wherever it can be done should be placed under the supervision of a field officer. During the Winter in most of the states it would be inconvenient to assemble in larger corps than companies. Great cities are to be avoided. The collection of troops there may lead to disorders and expose more than elsewhere the morals and principles of the soldiery. But though it might now be premature to fix a permanent disposition of the troops, it may be not unuseful to indicate certain stations where they may be assembled provisionally, and may probably be suffered to continue while matters remain in their

present posture. The stations eligible in this view may be found for two Regiments in the vicinity of Providence River, somewhere near Uxbridge; for two other Regiments in the vicinity of Brunswick in New Jersey; for two other Regiments in the vicinity of the Potomac near Harpers Ferry; for two other Regiments in the vicinity of Augusta but above the falls of the Savannah. This disposition will unite considerations relative to the discipline and health of the troops, and to the œconomical supply of their wants by water. It will also have some military aspects, in the first instance towards the security of Boston and New Port; in the second towards that of New York and Philadelphia in the third and fourth, towards that of Baltimore Charleston Savannah and the Southern States generally and in the third particularly towards the reinforcement of the Western army in certain events. But the military motives have only a qualified influence; since it is not doubted that in the prospect of a serious attack upon this country, the disposition of the army ought to look emphatically to the Southern Region as that which is by far the most likely to be the scene of action.

As to your tenth question, the opinion is, that the Government itself ought to provide the rations. The plan of furnishing money to the recruits as a substitute for this is likely to be attended with several inconveniences. It will give them a pretence for absence injurious to discipline and facilitating marauding and desertion. Many of the soldiery will be disposed to lay out too much of their money in ardent spirits and too little in provisions, which besides occasioning them to be ill fed will lead to habits of intemperance.

The subject of your 11th question is peculiarly important. The two modes have severally their advantages and disadvantages. That of purchases by Agents of the Government is liable to much mismanagement and abuse, sometimes from want of

skill but much oftener from infidelity. It is too frequently deficient in œconomy; but it is preferable, as it regards the quality of the articles to be supplied, the satisfaction of the troops, and the certainty of the supply; which last is a point of the utmost consequence to the success of any military operation. The mode by contracting is sometimes found more œconomical; but, as the calculations of contractors have reference primarily to their own profit, they are apt to endeavour to impose on the troops articles of inferior quality; the troops, suspecting this are apt to be dissatisfied even where there is no adequate cause and where defects may admit of reasonable excuse. In the attention to cheapness of price and other savings of expence, it from time to time happens that the supplies are not laid in as early as the service requires, or not in sufficient quantity or are not conveyed with due celerity to the points where they are wanted. Circumstances like these tend to embarrass and even to defeat the best concerted military plans; which, in this mode, depend for their execution too much upon the combinations of individual avarice. It also occasionally happens that the Public, from the failures of the contractors, is under the necessity of interposing with sudden and extraordinary efforts to obviate the mischiefs and disappointments of those failures, producing, in addition to other evils an accumulation of expence, which the fortunes of the delinquent contractors are insufficient to indemnify.

The union of the two modes will probably be found safest and best. Prudence always requires that magazines shall be formed before hand at stations relative to the probable or expected scene of action. These magazines may be laid in by contract, and the transportation of the supplies from the magazines and the issuing of them to the army may be the business of the Military Agents, who must be likewise authorized and enabled

to provide for the deficiencies of the contractors and for whatever may not be comprehended in the contracts. This plan will, to a great extent, admit the competition of private interest to furnish the supplies at the cheapest rate: by narrowing the sphere of action of the public agents, it will proportionably diminish the opportunities of abuse; and it will unite as far as is attainable œconomy with the efficiency of military operations.

But to obtain the full advantages of this plan, it is essential that there shall be a man attached to the army, of distinguished capacity and integrity, to be charged with the superintendence of the department of supplies. To procure such a man, as military honor can form no part of his reward, ample pecuniary compensation must be given; and he must be intrusted with large authority for the appointment of subordinate agents accompanied with a correspondent responsibility. Proceeding on this ground there would be a moral certainty of immense savings to the public in the business of supplies; savings the magnitude of which will be easily understood by any man, who can estimate the vast difference in the results of extensive money transactions between a management at once skilful and faithful, and that which is either unskilful or unfaithful.

This suggestion contemplates as a part of the plan that the procuring of supplies of every kind which in our past experience has been divided between two departments, of Quarter Master and Commissary, shall be united under one head. This unity will tend to harmony, system, and vigor. It will avoid the discordant influence of civil with military functions. The Quarter Master General, in this case, instead of being a purveyor as formerly will besides the duties purely military of his station, be confined to the province of calling for the requisite supplies and of seeing that they are duly furnished; in which he may be rendering a very useful check upon the purveyor.

The extent of your twelfth question has been matter of some doubt. But no inconvenience can ensue from the answering it with greater latitude than may have been intended. It is conceived that the strongest considerations of national policy and safety require that we should be as fast as possible provided [with] Arsenals and Magazines of Artillery small arms and the principal articles of military stores and camp equipage equal to such a force as may be deemed sufficient to resist with effect the most serious invasion of the most powerful European nation. This precaution, which prudence would at all times recommend, is peculiarly indicated by the existing crisis of Europe. The nature of the case does not furnish any absolute standard of the requisite force. It must be more or less a matter of judgment. The opinion is that the calculation ought to be on the basis of fifty thousand men, forty thousand infantry of the line two thousand riflemen four thousand horse and four thousand Artillerymen. And with regard to such articles as are expended by the use not less than a full years supply ought to be ready. This will allow due time from internal and external sources to continue the supply, in proportion to the exigencies which shall occur. The schedule B contains an estimate of the chief of these articles. It is to be observed that the quantities there exhibited are not additional to the present supply but the totals to be provided. As to cloathing, since we may always on a sudden emergency find a considerable supply in our markets, and the articles are more perishable, the quantity in deposit may be much less than of other articles; but it ought not under present circumstances to be less than a years supply for half the abovementioned force especially of the woollen articles.

I proceed to the last of your questions, that which respects the stations for magazines. It is conceived that three principal permanent stations will suffice and that these ought to be

Springfield and Harpers Ferry which are already chosen, and the vicinity of Rocky Mount on the Wateree, in South Carolina. These stations are in a great measure central to three great subdivisions of the United States; they are so interior as to be entirely safe and yet on navigable waters, which empty into the Ocean and facilitate a water conveyance to every point on our sea Coast. They are also in well settled and healthy districts of Country. That near Harpers ferry it is well known possesses extraordinary advantages for founderies and other manufactories of iron. It is expected that a canal will ere long effect a good navigation between the Wateree and the Catawba; which whenever it shall happen will render the vicinity of Rocky Mount extremely convenient to the supply of North Carolina by inland navigation. Pittsburg West Point in New York, the neighbourhood of Trenton in New Jersey and Fayetteville in North Carolina may properly be selected as places of particular and occasional deposit. Large Cities are as much as possible to be avoided.

The foregoing comprises it is believed a full answer to the questions you have stated. I shall in another letter offer to your consideration some further matters, which have occurred and are deemed to be of importance to our military service. With respect &c.[26]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Philadelphia, December 13, 1798.

Sir: I shall now present to your view the additional objects alluded to in my letter of this date.

A proper organization for the troops of the U States is a principal one. In proportion as the policy of the country is adverse

[26] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. Indorsed by Tobias Lear: "Copy delivered to General Pinckney Decr. 28, 1798."
Drafts of Schedules A and B are not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

to extensive military establishments ought to be our care to render the principles of our military system as perfect as possible and our endeavours to turn to the best account such force as we may at any time have on foot, and to provide an eligible standard for the augmentations to which particular emergencies may compel a resort.

The organization of our military force will, it is conceived, be much improved, by modelling it on the following plan.

Let a Regiment of Infantry, composed as at present of two batalions and each batalion of five Companies, consist of these Officers and men (viz) one Colonel two Majors, a first and second, one Adjutant, one Quarter Master and one Pay Master each of whom shall be a Lieutenant, one surgeon and one surgeon's Mate, Ten Captains, Ten first and ten second lieutenants, besides the three Lts. above mentioned, Two Cadets with the payment and emoluments of sergeants, Two sergeant Majors, Two quarter Master sergeants, Two Chief Musicians, first and second, Twenty other Musicians forty sergeants forty Corporals and Nine hundred and Twenty privates.

Let a Regiment of Dragoons consist of Ten Troops, making five squadrons and of these Officers and men (viz) one Colonel, two Majors a first and second, one Adjutant one Quarter Master and one Pay Master each of whom shall be a Lieutenant, one surgeon and one surgeons Mate, ten Captains, ten first and ten second Lieutenants, besides the three Lieutenants above mentioned, five Cadets with the pay and emoluments of sergeants, Two sergeant Majors, two Quarter Master sergeants, Two Chief Musicians first and second, and Ten other musicians Forty sergeants forty corporals and Nine hundred and Twenty privates; the privates including to each Troop one saddler, one black smith, and one boot Maker.

Let a Regiment of Artillery consist of four batalions each batalion of four Companies and of these Officers and men (viz) one Colonel, four Majors, one Adjutant, one Quarter Master and one Pay Master each of whom shall be a Lieutenant, one surgeon and Two surgeons Mates Sixteen Captains, sixteen first and sixteen second Lieutenants, besides the three Lieutenants above mentioned. Thirty two Cadets with the pay and emoluments of sergeants, four sergeant Majors, four Quarter Master sergeants; sixty four sergeants sixty four Corporals one Chief Musician and ten other Musicians; Eight hundred and Ninety six privates including to each Company Eight Artificers.

The principal reasons for this organization will be briefly suggested.

It will be observed that the proportion of men to Officers in the Infantry and Cavalry is considerably greater than by the present establishment. This presents in the first place the advantage of œconomy. By the proportional decrease of the Officers, savings will result in their pay, subsistence and the transportation of their baggage. The last circumstance, by lessening the impediments of an army, is also favourable to the celerity of its movements.

The command of each officer will become more respectable. This will be an inducement to respectable men to accept military appointments, and it will be an incentive to exertion among those, who shall be engaged, by upholding that justifiable pride, which is a necessary ingredient in the military spirit.

A company will then admit of an eligible subdivision into platoons sections and demi-sections each of a proper front. Each batalion will then be of the size judged proper for a manœuvring column in the field; and it is that portion of an army which in the most approved system of Tactics is destined

to fulfil this object. A batalion ought neither to be too unwieldy for rapid movements nor so small as to multiply too much the subdivisions, and render each incapable either of a vigorous impulse or resistance.

The proportion of officers to men ought not to be greater than is adequate to the due management and command of them. A careful examination of this point will satisfy every judge, that the number now proposed will be equal to both. This conclusion will be assisted by the idea that our fundamental order, in conformity with that of the nations of Europe generally, ought to place our infantry in three ranks; to oppose to an enemy, who shall be in the same order an equal mass for attack or defence.

These remarks explain summarily the chief reasons for the most material of the alterations which is suggested.

But it is not the intention to recommend a present augmentation of the number of rank and file to the proposed standard. It is only wished that it may be adopted as that of the war establishment. The Regiments which have been authorized may continue in this respect upon the footing already prescribed; leaving the actual augmentation to depend on events which may create a necessity for the increase of our force. The other alterations recommended have relation rather to systematic propriety, than to very important military ends.

The term Lt Col in our present establishment has a relative signification, without any thing in fact to which it relates. It was introduced during our revolutionary war, to facilitate exchanges of prisoners; as our then enemy united the grade of Colonel with that of General. But the permanent form of our military system ought to be regulated by principle not by the changeable and arbitrary arrangement of a particular nation. The title of Colonel, which has greater respectability, is more

proper for the commander of a Regiment; because it does not, like the other, imply a relation having no existence.

The term ensign is changed into that of lieutenant as well because the latter from usage has additional respectability offering an inducement to desirable candidates, as because the former, in its origin, signified a standard bearer, and supposed that each company had a distinct standard. This in practice has ceased to be the case, and for a variety of good reasons a standard of colours to each batalion of infantry is deemed sufficient. This standard is intended to be confided to a cadet, in whom it may be expected to excite an emulation and exertion. The multiplication of grades, inconvenient with regard to exchanges, is thus avoided.

In the cavalry it is proper to allow a standard to each squadron consisting of two troops and hence it is proposed to have five cadets to a Regiment.

The nature of the Artillery service, constantly in detachment, renders it proper to compose a Regiment of a greater number of batalions than the other corps. This our present establishment has recognised. But there is now a disorderly want of uniformity; one regiment being composed of four battalions, the other of three. The same organization ought to be common to all.

The diminution of the number of musicians, while it will save expense, is also warranted by the peculiar nature of the Artillery service. They answer in this corps few of the purposes, which they fulfil in the Infantry.

The existing laws contemplate and with good reason that the aids of General Officers, except the Commander in Chief and the officers in the department of Inspection shall be taken from the Regiment. But they do not provide that when so taken their places in the Regiments shall be supplied by others.

It is conceived that this ought to be the case. The principles of the establishment suppose, for example, that three officers to a company of a given number are the just and due proportion. If when an officer be taken from a company to fill one of the stations alluded to, his place be not filled by another, so that the number of Officers to a company may remain the same, it must follow that the company will be deficient in officers. It is true that the number of a company is continually diminishing, but it diminishes in officers as well as men; and it is not known that the proportion is varied. Practice in every institution ought to conform to principle, or there will result more or less of disorder. An army is in many respects a machine; of which the displacement of any of the organs, if permitted to continue, injures its symmetry and energy and leads to disorder and weakness. The increase of the number of rank and file, while it strengthens the reasons for replacing the officers who may be removed will more than compensate in point of œconomy for the addition of officers by the substitution. This may be reduced to the test of calculation. But though the place of an officer in his Regiment ought to be supplied upon any such removal, he ought not to lose his station in the Regiment; but ought to rank and rise as if he had continued to serve in it.

The provision that the Aids de Camp and the officers of Inspection shall be drawn from the line of the army is not restricted as to grade. There ought to be such a restriction. The Aids of Major Generals ought not to be taken from a rank superior to that of Captain, nor those of Brigadiers from a rank superior to that of first Lieutenant. The Inspectors ought in like manner to be limited, those of Brigadiers to the rank of Captain, those of divisions to that of Major. This will guard against the multiplication of superior grades by removals to fill such stations.

The judicious establishment of general rules of promotion, liable to exceptions in favour of extraordinary service or merit, is a point of the greatest consequence. It is conceived that these rules are the most convenient that can be devised; namely that all Officers shall rise in the Regiments to which they respectively belong up to the rank of Major inclusively; that afterwards they shall rise in the line of the army at large; with the limitation however that the Officers of Artillery Cavalry and Infantry shall be confined to their respective corps, until they shall attain the rank of Colonel.

It is very material to the due course of military service, that the several classes of an army shall be distinguished from each other by certain known badges, and that there shall be uniformity in dress and equipment subject to these distinctions. The dress itself will indeed constitute a part of them. It is of inferior moment what they shall be provided they are conspicuous œconomical and not inconsistent with good appearance, which in an army is far from being a matter of indifference. The following uniforms and badges are recommended; but if any of them are supposed liable to exception they may be changed at pleasure.

The uniform of the Commander in Chief to be a blue coat, with yellow buttons and gold epaulettes (each having three silver stars) linings cape and cuffs of buff, in Winter, buff vest and breeches, in summer a white vest, and breeches of nankeen. The coat to be without lappels, and embroidered on the cape, cuffs, and pockets. A white plume in the hat to be a further distinction. The Adjutant General, the aids and secretaries of the Commander in Chief to be likewise distinguished by a white plume.

The uniform of the other General officers to be a blue coat with yellow buttons gold epaulets the lining and facings of

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buff; the under cloathes the same with those of the Commander in Chief. The Major General to be distinguished by two silver stars on each epaulette and except the Inspector General by a black and white plume, the black below. The Brigadier to be distinguished by one silver star on each epaulet, and by a red and white plume, the red below. The aids of all General Officers who are taken from Regiments, and the Officers of inspection to wear the uniforms of the Regiments from which they are taken. The aids to be severally distinguished by the like plumes, which are worn by the General Officers to whom they are respectively attached.

The uniform of the aids and secretaries of the Commander in Chief when not taken from Regiments to be a blue coat with yellow buttons and gold epaulettes buff-lining and facings; the same under cloaths with the Commander in Chief.

The Inspector General his aids and the officers of Inspection generally to be distinguished by a blue plume. The Quarter Master General and other military officers in his department to be distinguished by a Green Plume.

The uniform of the Infantry and Artillery to be a blue Coat with white buttons and red facings, white under cloaths, and cocked hats. The Coats of the Infantry to be lined with white, of the artillery with red.

The uniform of the Cavalry to be a Green Coat with white buttons lining and facings; white vest and breeches with helmet caps.

Each Colonel to be distinguished by two epauletts, each Major by one Epaulette on the right shoulder and a strap on the left. All the field Officers, except as above, and the Regimental staff to wear red plumes.

Captains to be distinguished by an Epaulette on the right shoulder. Lieutents. by one on the left shoulder. Cadets by a

strap on the right shoulder. The Epaulettes and straps of the Regimental Officers to be of silver.

Sergeant Majors and Quarter Master sergeants to be distinguished by two red worsted Epaulettes. Sergeants by a like Epaulette on the right shoulder. Corporals by a like Epaulette on the left shoulder. The flank companies to be distinguished by red wings on the shoulders.

The Coats of the Musicians to be of the colour of the facings of the corps to which they severally belong. The Chief Musicians to wear two white worsted Epaulettes.

All the Civil Staff of the army to wear plain blue coats with yellow buttons and white under cloaths. No gold or silver lace, except in the epaulettes and straps, to be worn.

The Commissioned Officers and Cadets to wear swords.

All persons belonging to the army to wear a black cockade with a small white Eagle in the Centre. The Cockade of the non Commissioned officers musicians and privates to be of leather with eagles of Tin.

The Regiments to be distinguished from each other numerically. The number of each Regiment to be expressed on the buttons.

It cannot fail to happen, that clothing made at a distance from the army will in numerous instances be ill fitted to the persons to whom it is issued. This is an inconvenience, as it respects appearance comfort and use. It merits consideration, whether it may not be remedied by making provision by law for the necessary alterations at the cost of the soldiery. As there are always to be found Taylors in an army, the alterations may be made there during seasons of inactivity; and moderate compensations may be established, to be deducted out of the pay. The Taylors when so employed being exempted from military duty, will be satisfied with very small allowances; and

the soldiers will probably prefer this expense to the inconvenience of wearing cloaths, which do not fit them.

On this subject of cloathing, it is remarked with regret, that the returns which have been received exhibit none on hand; though from verbal communications it is understood that measures are in train for obtaining a present supply. It is desirable that some more effectual plan than has hitherto been pursued should be adopted to procure regular and sufficient supplies on reasonable terms. While we depend on foreigners, will it not be adviseable to import the materials rather than take the chance of markets? And will it not be expedient, with a view to œconomy to have the cloathing made up in the countries from which it may be brought? The matter certainly deserves serious attention. Our supply in the mode hitherto practised is not only very precarious but must doubtless be obtained at a very dear rate.

Another point no less deserving of particular attention is the composition of the ration of provisions. It was on the last session augmented beyond all former example. It is not recollected that the ration which was allowed during the war with Great Britain, was found insufficient by troops once formed to military habits and acquainted with the best methods of managing their provisions. The present ration, estimating by price, is understood to be greater than the ration in that war by at least forty per cent. This is evidently a very important augmentation. Various disadvantages attend it; a great increase of expense; additional difficulty in furnishing under all circumstances the stipulated allowance, consequently a multiplication of the possible causes of discontent murmurs and perhaps even mutiny; the necessity of a greater number of wagons for transportation, and of course the extension of this always serious source of embarrassment to military operations.

The quantity of spirituous liquors, which is a component part of the ration, is so large as to endanger, where they might not before exist, habits of intemperance, alike fatal to health and discipline. Experience has repeatedly shown, that many soldiers will exchange their rum for other articles; which is productive of the double mischief of subjecting those with whom the exchange is made, to the loss of what is far more necessary and to all the consequences of brutal intoxication. The step having been once taken, a change is delicate; but it is believed to be indispensable, and that the temporary evils of a change can bear no proportion to the permanent and immense evils of a continuance of the error.

It may not perhaps be adviseable to bring back the ration to the standard of the late war, but to modify it in some respects differently, so as not materially to affect the aggregate expense. It may consist of Eighteen ounces of bread or flour one pound and a quarter of fresh beef or one pound of salted beef or three quarters of a pound of salted pork; salt when fresh meat is issued at the rate of one quart and candles at the rate of a pound for every hundred rations. With regard to liquor it may be best to exclude it from being a component part of the ration; allowing a discretion to Commanding officers to cause it to be issued in quantities not exceeding half a gill per day, except on extraordinary occasions. Vinegar also ought to be furnished when to be had at the rate of two quarts and soap at the rate of two pounds per hundred rations.

There are often difficulties in furnishing articles of this description, and the equivalent in money is frequently rather pernicious than beneficial. Where there is a contract, the promise of articles is apt to prove more beneficial to the contractor than to any other person. He commonly so manages it that the substitute is not a real equivalent. But it need not be observed

that whatever is to be done in this respect must be so conducted as not to infract the conditions on which the troops now in service were enlisted.

It is deeply to be lamented that a very precious period of leisure was not improved towards forming among ourselves Engineers and Artillerists; and that owing to this neglect we are in danger of being overtaken by war, without competent characters of these descriptions. To form them suddenly is impossible. Much previous study and experiment are essential. If possible to avoid it a war ought not to find us wholly unprovided. It is conceived to be adviseable to endeavour to introduce from abroad at least one distinguished Engineer, and one distinguished Officer of Artillery. They may be sought for preferably in the Austrian, and next in the Prussian armies. The grade of Colonel, with adequate pecuniary compensation, may attract officers of a rank inferior to that grade in those armies, who will be of distinguished ability and merit. But in this, as we know from past experience, nothing is more easy than to be imposed upon; nothing more difficult than to avoid imposition, and that therefore it is requisite to commit the business of procuring such characters to some very judicious hand; under every caution that can put him upon his guard.

If there shall be occasion for the actual employment of military force, a corps of riflemen will be for several purposes extremely useful. The eligible proportion of riflemen to infantry of the line may be taken at a twentieth. Hence in the apportionment of an army of fifty thousand men, in my letter of this date, two thousand riflemen are included; and in the estimate of arms to be provided two thousand rifles. There is a kind of rifle commonly called *Fergusons* which will deserve particular attention. It is understood that it has in different European

armies supplanted the old rifle, as being more quickly loaded and more easily kept clean. If the shot of it be equally or nearly equally sure those advantages entitle it to a preference. It is very desirable that this point and its comparative merit in other respects be ascertained by careful examination and experiment.

Perhaps generally, but more certainly when the troops shall serve in Southern Climates, flannel shirts will be most conducive to health. Will it not be adviseable to make provision for retaining a discretion in such cases either to allow a less number of flannel shirts equivalent to the present allowance of linnen, or if this cannot be, to furnish the soldiery with the requisite number, deducting the difference of cost out of their pay?

The only provision for the appointment of a quarter Master General is to be found in the act of the 28th of May; authorizing the President to raise a provisional army, which limits his rank and emoluments to those of Lt Colonel. This provision is conceived to be entirely inadequate. The military duties of the office are of a nature to render it of the first importance in an army; demanding great abilities and a character every way worthy of trust. Accordingly it is the general practice, founded upon very substantial reasons, to confide it to an officer of high Military rank. The probability is that, without a similar arrangement on our part we shall not be able to command a fit character; and in taking one of inferior pretensions we shall subject the service to disadvantages out of all proportion to any objections which may be supposed to militate against the conferring of such rank. It is feared, that an appointment under the existing provision would only create embarrassment should there be real necessity for military exertions; and that the alternate must be either to leave the army destitute of so necessary

an organ or to give it one likely in the progress of things to prove unequal to the task.

It was much desired for preventing future controversy to fix in the first instance the relative grades of the regimental Officers. That of the field officers has been rendered impossible, without injustice and the hazard of much dissatisfaction, by the impossibility of completing the arrangement in Connecticut and the three most Southern States. But upon close examination many obstacles opposed a definitive establishment of the relative rank even of the officers of companies in the regiments which have been organized. Numerous circumstances which ought to influence the decision are unknown; and without this knowledge a final arrangement might lead to very awkward and perplexing results. In consideration of this difficulty, no more than a temporary one, liable to future revision, has been adopted. It will be necessary to attend to this in the appointments, and to signify to the persons, that they are to obey according to the order of nomination, but that the President reserves to himself the right, *where cogent reasons for it* shall appear, to change the relative rank which that order may seem to recognise. He will judge whether, in making the nomination to the Senate, a like reserve is necessary.

I am well aware, that several of the matters suggested in this letter will require legislative provision. If the whole or any of them shall be approved by the Executive, no time ought to be lost in recommending them to the consideration of Congress. As to some of them, it is very desireable that the necessary provision by law should precede the enlistment of the men; to avoid the obstacle to a change, which may result from contract. With great respect &c.[27]

[27] The draft is in the writing of Alexander Hamilton. Indorsed by Tobias Lear: "Copy sent to Majr. Genl. Pinckney Decr. 30th. 1798."

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Chester, December 14, 1798.

Dear Sir: Having requested that the Nomination of Mr. Custis might be with held (even if it should meet the Presidents approbation under any Cirs) until I could consult his Grandmother (Mrs. Washington) and Mother Mrs. Stuart, I further pray that no mention of his name for such an Office may be made, until that matter is ascertained; because if their consent being an only son, indeed the only Male of his family, cannot be had, it would be better that the arrangement of him should pass *entirely* unnoticed to prevent the uneasy sensations wch. might otherwise arise in his breast. He now stands as a Cornet in the Troop proposed to be commanded by my Nephew Lawrence Lewis, who was aid de Camp to Genl. Morgan on the Insurgent Expn in 1794.

Just as I was leaving the City today I had an opportunity for the first time of seeing Captn. Saml. Henley who is a Man of a handsome and Gentlemanly appearance. Having no evidence respecting him, except from his own letter, while we were arranging the Massachusetts line, he was not included in it. Afterwards, a letter from Genl Shepherd [28] recommended him, but at *that time* we did not think it of sufficient weight to travel the grd. over again. I must acknowledge however that his external appearance (for I had no conversation with him) made so favorable an Impression on me that (being an old Officer too, and brother to a very worthy man), I should be very glad, if his conduct will stand the test of Investigation, to see him put as *Captain* in the place of some Captain in that line who

[28] William Shepard (Shepherd).

has not served in the Revolutionary War. The particular one I cannot now name, but it will not be difficult to ascertain. With very great esteem etc.

PS. I know of no character in the New England States (since the declination of Generals Knox and Brooks) that have fairer pretensions to be appointed a Brigadr., or even Majr General than Genl. Cobb.[29] And if Genl. Dayton does not accept his appointment, pray press Colo. Howard[30] *strongly* to come forward.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Susquehanna, December 16, 1798.

Sir: Being detained on the East bank of this River by northwesterly winds and consequent low tides, I shall devote some of the moments of my detention in writing to you on an important subject.

In a conversation had with you in Philadelphia, you discovered the very just opinion, that for the proper and successful direction of our military affairs, it was essential that it should be, as far as possible, concentrated in one or a few principal Officers, with whom alone the head of the War department should communicate. Any other plan would doubtless contraverse the ideas of military propriety, and would involve you in an impracticable detail, producing, necessarily, confusion and imbecility in the System. You seemed also desireous that I should express to you some ideas of the proper arrangement. Close application to other matters, with which you charged me whilst I was in Philada., and my extreme impatience (on account of the season and weather) to leave it, must be my apology for not doing this sooner.[31]

[29] David Cobb.

[30] John Eager Howard.

[31] On December 14 Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, which he reached December 19.

You know the ground, Sir, on which I accepted the command of the Army; and that it is a part of my plan to decline the occupations of the office unless, and until my presence in the field should be required for actual operations, or other imperious circumstances might require my Assistance. Persevering in this plan, I cannot undertake to assume a direct agency, incompatible therewith; and half way acting might be more inconvenient than totally declining it. The other General Officers will, I am persuaded, execute with alacrity any service to which they may be destined. In this assurance I take the liberty to advise you to adopt the following plan.

Let the charge and direction of our military affairs in the three most Southern States, be entrusted to General Pinckney. If, indeed, it will not derange him too much, to take immediately, a more northerly position, and more convenient for the purpose, let Virginia be added, and his position be in it; leaving So. Carolina and Georgia to the care of Brigadier Genl. Washington, subject to the orders of the former; through whom all the military concerns of those States should pass to the War Office. General Hamilton may be charged with superintending, under your direction, all the Troops and posts which shall not be confided to General Pinckney; including the Army under General Wilkinson. His proximity to the Seat of Government will render this not inconvenient. The official letters of the Commander of the Western Army may pass open through your hands, to enable you to give immediate orders in cases which may be too urgent to wait for the Agency of General Hamilton.

The Companies to be recruited, according to the plan laid before me, in the States of Kentucky and Tennessee, should be subjected to the direction of Major General Pinckney; because they compose a part of the Regiments which are to be raised in the three Southern States; but the present force in Tennessee

must be excluded therefrom, otherwise an interference with the Command of Brigadier Wilkinson, and the mode of his communication with the department of War, would follow, and confusion result from it.

It will be useful that the whole of the recruiting Service should be under one direction, and this properly appertains to the Office of Inspector General. He will, of course, be authorized to call to his aid the other General Officers.

On this plan then will be two principal Organs, through whom all our military affairs will be transacted with your department. This will serve to unite and simplify the objects of your attention, and will enable you to devote it principally to the considering and maturing of general plans, and to an effectual superintendance of their execution on a large Scale. With respect and esteem etc.[32]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, December 20, 1798.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is a Check on the Bank of Alexandria for five hundred Dollars, to enable Mr. Blagden, by your draughts, to proceed in laying in Materials for carrying on my buildings in the Federal City.

I saw a building in Philadelphia of about the same front and elevation, that are to be given to my two houses, which pleased me. It consisted also of two houses united, Doors in the centre, a pediment in the roof and dormar window in each side of it in front; skylights in the rear. If this is not incongruous with rules of Architecture, I would be glad to have my two houses executed in this style. Let me request the favor of you to know from Mr. Blagden what the additional cost will be. I am etc.[33]

[32] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

[33] From a photostat of the original in the "Washington Photostats" in the Library of Congress.

*To GEORGE WASHINGTON MOTIER DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, December 25, 1798.

My dear George: Having written a long letter to General La Fayette I shall write a short one to you; and it shall relate principally, if not altogether, to domestic concerns.

At the time you left this country you would not, less than I did, believe that in the course of events any occurrence could arise, which would again take me from the walks of Mount Vern. But the injuries we have received, and are threatened with, have induced me once more (if occasion should require it) to tread the thorny path of public life, and for this purpose I have accepted a Commission to command the Armies of the United States, if, unfortunately, we should be forced into a War.

Your acquaintance Lawrence Lewis is appointed Captain of a Troop of Light Dragoons; but intends, before he enters the Camp of Mars to engage in that of Venus; Eleanor Custis and he having entered into a contract of marriage; which, I understand, is to be fulfilled on my birthday (the 22d. of Feby). Washington Custis prefering a Military career to literary pursuits, is appointed Cornet in Lewis's Troop, and Washington Craik a Lieutenancy. Young Carroll of Carrolton, will be a Volunteer Aid of mine, and Mr. Lear is my Secretary.

Young gentlemen of the first families, fortunes and expectations in the United States, are offering their Services; but I hope, and most ardently pray, that the Directory in your Country will not, by a perseverence in the insults and injuries which they have heaped on this, make it necessary to resort to Arms to repel an Invasion, or to do ourselves justice. I can undertake to affirm, that necessity *only* will drive us to it, although I am but just returned from a six weeks visit in Philadelphia to make arrangements there for it, eventually.

Mrs. and Mr. Law and their pet Eliza, Mr. and Mrs. Peter and their two children, and Doctr. Stuart and family (whom I ought to have mentioned first) are all well; and would, if they knew I was writing to you, request to be remembered to you in the most affectionate terms. I recollect no material change that has taken place in men or things since you left America. Alexandria continues to thrive, and the Public buildings in the federal City go on well: and many private ones are commencing for the accommodation of the Members of Congress, and Officers of Government, preparatory to the removal of the Government to that place.

Mrs. Washington holds you in constant remembrance, and offers you every good wish, which she prays you to extend to your amiable mother and Sisters whenever it may be in your Power. Nelly, Washington and Lewis would, I am sure, unite heartily in these, were they at home; but all of them are absent, the first at Hope Park, and the other two beyond the Mountains. When the clouds which at present overcast the Political horrison are dispelled, it would give all your friends great pleasure to see you in your old walks, and to none more than to your Sincere and affectionate friend.

PS. If Mr. Frestal should be with you, or you should have occasion to write to him, be so good as to present him with the best wishes of this family.

To MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Mount Vernon, December 25, 1798.

My dear Sir: I am indebted to you for the following letters, dated the 6th of Octr. and 20th of Decr. of the last year. And 26th. of April, 20th. of May, 20th. of August and 5th. of Septr. in the present. If more have been written they have fallen into other hands, or miscarried on their passage.

Convinced as you must be of the fact, it wd. be a mere waste of time to assure you of the sincere and heartfelt pleasure I derived from finding by the above letters, that you had not only regained your liberty; but were in the enjoyment of better health than could have been expected from your long and rigorous confinement; and that madame La Fayette and the young ladies were able to Survive it attall. On these desirable events I can add with truth, that amongst your numerous friends none can offer his congratulations with more warmth, or who prays more sincerely for the perfect restoration of your ladies health, than I do.

It is equally unnecessary for me to apologize to you for my long silence; when by a recurrence to your own Letters you will find my excuse; for by these it will appear that if you had embarked for this country at the epochs mentioned therein no letters of mine cou'd have arrived in Europe before your departure from thence; untill by your favor of the 20th. of Augt. I was informed, that your voyage to America was postponed for the reasons then given, and which conveyed the first Idea to my mind that a letter from me might find you in Europe.

The letter last mentioned together with that of the 5th. of September, found me in Phila. whither I had gone for the purpose of making some military arrangements with the Secretary of War, and where every moment of my time was so much occupied in that business, as to allow no leisure to attend to any thing else.

I have been thus circumstantial in order to impress you with the true cause of my silence and to remove from your mind if a doubt had arisen there that my friendship for you, had undergone no diminution or change. And that no one in the United States would receive you with open arms, or with more ardent affection than I should, after the differences between this

Country and France are adjusted and harmony between the nations is again restored. But it would be uncandid and incompatible with that friendship I have always professed for you, to say (and on your own account) that I wish it before. For you may be assured my dear Sir that the Scenes you wou'd meet with, and the part you wou'd be stimulated to act, in case of an open rupture or even if matters should remain in Statu quo, would be such as to place you in a Situation in which no address or human prudence, could free you from embarrassment. In a word you would lose the Confidence of one party or the other (perhaps) both were you here under these circumstances.

To give you a Complete View of the politics and Situation of things in this Country would far exceed the limits of a letter; and to trace effects to their Causes would be a work of time. But the sum of them may be given in a few words, and amounts to this. That a party exists in the United States, formed by a Combination of Causes, which oppose the Government in all its measures, and are determined (as all their Conduct evinces) by Clogging its Wheels indirectly to change the nature of it, and to Subvert the Constitution. To effect this no means which have a tendency to accomplish their purposes are left unessayed. The friends of Government who are anxious to maintain its neutrality, and to preserve the Country in peace, and adopt measures to produce these, are charged by them as being Monarchists, Aristocrats, and infractors of the Constitution; which according to their Interpretation of it would be a mere Cypher; while they arrogated to themselves, (until the eyes of the people began to discover how outrageously they had been treated in their Commercial concerns by the Directory of France, and that, that was a ground on which they could no longer tread). the sole merit of being the friends of France, when in fact they had no more regard for that Nation than for

the Grand Turk, further than their own views were promoted by it; denouncing those who differed in Opinion; whose principles are purely American; and whose sole view was to observe a strict neutrality, with acting under British influence, and being directed by her counsels, now with being her Pensioners.

This is but a short sketch, of what requires much time to illustrate; and is given with no other view, than to shew you what would be your situation here at this crisis under such circumstances as it unfold.

You have expressed a wish, worthy [of] that benevolence of your heart, that I would exert all my endeavors to avert the Calamitous effects of a rupture between our Countries. Believe me my dear friend that no man can deprecate an event of this sort with more horror than I should and that no one, during the whole of my Administration laboured more incessantly and with more sincerity and zeal than I did to avoid this, and to render every justice, nay favor to France, consistently with the neutrality which had been proclaimed to these sanctioned by Congress and approved by the State legislatures, and the people at large in their Town and County meetings. But neutrality was not the point at which France was aiming. for whilst it was crying peace, Peace, and pretending that they did not wish us to be embroiled in their quarrel with great Britain they were pursuing measures in *this Country* so repugnant to its Sovereignty, and so incompatible with every principle of neutrality, as *must* inevitably, have produced a war with the latter. And when they found that the Government *here* was resolved to adhere steadily to its plan of neutrality, their next step was to destroy the confidence of the people in, and to seperate them from it; for which purpose their diplomatic agents were specially instructed; and in the attempt were aided by inimical characters among ourselves not as I observed before

because they loved France more than any other nation, but because it was an instrument to Facilitate the destruction of their own Government.

Hence proceeded those charges which I have already enumerated, against the friends to peace and order. No doubt remains on this side of the water, that to the representations of and encouragement given by these people, is to be ascribed in a great measure, the intentions of our Treaty with France; their violation of the Laws of nations, disregard of Justice and even of sound policy. But herein they have not only deceived France, but were deceived themselves, as the event has proved, for no sooner did the yeomanry of this Country come to a right understanding of the nature of the dispute, than they rose as one man with a tender of their Services; their lives and their fortunes, to support the Government of their choice, and to defend their country. This has produced a declaration from them (how sincere let others judge), that, if the French should attempt to invade this Country that they themselves would be amongst the foremost to repel the attack.

You add in another place that the Executive Directory are disposed to accommodation of all differences. If they are Sincere in this declaration, let them evidence it by actions, for words unaccompanied therewith will not be much regarded now. I would pledge myself, that the Government and people of the United States will meet them heart and hand at *fair* negotiation; having no wish more ardent, than to live in peace with all the world, provided they are suffered to remain undisturbed in their just rights. Of this their patience, forbearance, and repeated solicitations under accumulated injuries and insults are incontestable proofs; but it is not to be infered from hence that they will suffer any nation under the sun (while

they retain a proper sense of Virtue and Independence) to trample upon their rights with impunity, or to direct, or influence the internal concerns of their Country.

It has been the policy of France and that of the opposition party among ourselves, to inculcate a belief that all those who have exerted themselves to keep this Country in peace, did it from an overweening attachment to Great Britain. But it is a solemn truth and you may count upon it, that it is void of foundation; and propagated for no other purpose, than to excite popular clamour against those whose aim was peace, and whom they wished out of their way.

That there are many among us, who wish to see this Country embroiled on the side of Great Britain, and others who are anxious that we should take part with France against her, admits of no doubt. But it is a fact on which you may entirely and absolutely rely, that the Governing powers of the Country, and a large part of the people are truly Americans in principle, attached to the interest of it; And unwilling under any circumstances whatsoever to participate in the Politics or Contests of Europe: Much less since they have found that France, having forsaken the ground she first took, is interfering in the internal concerns of all nations, Neutral as well as Belligerent, and setting the world in an uproar.

After my valedictory address to the people of the United States you would no doubt be somewhat surprised to hear, that I had again consented to Gird on the Sword. But, having Struggled Eight or nine Years against the invasion of our rights by one power, and to establish an Independence of it, I could not remain an unconcerned spectator of the attempt of another Power to accomplish the same object, though in a different way, with less pretensions indeed without any at all.

On the Politics of Europe I shall express no Opinion, nor make any inquiry who is Right or who is Wrong. I wish well to all nations and to all men. My politics are plain and simple. I think every nation has a Right to establish that form of Government under which It conceives It shall live most happy; provided it infracts no Right or is not dangerous to others. And that no Governments ought to interfere with the internal concerns of Another, except for the security of what is due to themselves.

I sincerely hope that Madame la Fayette will accomplish all her wishes in France and return safe to you with renovated health. I congratulate you on the marriage of your eldest daughter, and beg to be presented to them both and to Virginia in the most Respectful and affectionate terms; to George I have written. In all these things Mrs. Washington (as the rest of the family would do if they were at home) most cordially joins me: as she does in wishing you and them every felicity which this life can afford, as some consolation for your long cruel, and painful Confinement and Sufferings.

I shall now only add what you knew well before that with the most Sincere friendship and affectionate regard, I am always &c.

P. S. Your old aid de camp, and my worthy nephew George A. Washington; died about 5 years ago of a palmanory Complaint, he left 3 fine Children a daughter and two Sons, the eldest of the boys was called after you.

The letters herewith enclosed and directed one to yourself, another to George, and the third to Mr. Frestel, have been some time in my possession and detained to be delivered to you *here* upon the same principle that prevented me from writing to you at an earlier period.[34]

[34] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

*To WILLIAM VANS MURRAY

Mount Vernon, December 26, 1798.

Dear Sir: Having some cause to believe the Vessel was captured, in which went the original of the enclosed copy, I forward a duplicate.

I returned a few days ago from Philadelphia, whither I had been for the purpose of making some Military arrangements with the Secretary of War respecting the Force wch. is about to be raised. It was there I received a letter from Mr. Dandridge, announcing his intention of returning to America, (partly on account of his health), expressing in lively and grateful terms his sense of your attentions to, and kind treatment of him, adding that as experience had more and more convinced him, that a sedentary life was incompatible both with his health and turn of mind (a sentiment he had often expressed whilst he lived with me) he wished for an appointment in the Army we were about to raise. The application arriving in the nick of time, he stands arranged as Captn. of a Company of Infantry in one of the Regiments wh will be raised in Virginia, and it is necessary he should enter upon the duties thereof as soon as it can be made convenient.

Mr. Envoy Logan, who arrived at Philadelphia about the time I did, brings very *flattering* accounts of the Disposition of the French Directory *towards this Country*. He has dined with one, supped with another, and in short has been as familiar with them all, (that were in place) as the hand is with its glove: and is not a little employed in propagating this Doctrine in all parts of the U: States by means of the Presses which are at the command of that Party. He says the inclination of France to be upon good terms with the United States is *now* so strong, that it *must* be our own mismanagement, and

disinclination to Peace, if matters with that Country are not accommodated upon terms honorable and advantageous to this.[35]

Both houses of Congress were formed before I left Philadelphia, but had not been long enough in Session for an opinion of the result to be prognosticated.

Their answers to the Speech would, it seems, have passed unanimously, could Mr. Varnum[36] of Massachusetts have retained his Spleen. How far this measure is indicative of a tranquil and energetic Session, remains to be decided by more unequivocal evidence.

The Alien and Sedition Laws,[37] are now the desiderata in the Opposi[t]ion. But any thing else would have done; and something there will always be, for them to torture, and to disturb the public mind with their unfounded and ill favored forebodings.

The family join me in presenting Mrs. Murray and yourself with the Complimts. of the Season, and in wishing you many happy returns of them. With very sincere esteem, &c.

*To RICHARD RAYNAL KEENE

Mount Vernon, December 28, 1798.

Sir: At all times, when it is in my power to do it with tolerable convenience to myself, I feel pleasure in aiding the deserving and meritorious.

But let me observe at the sametime, that a very mistaken opinion prevails, with respect to my means of accomplishing this, in a pecuniary way; for was I to judge of these opinions

[35] On Jan. 30, 1799, the President approved "An Act for the punishment of certain crimes therein specified," which described precisely activities like those of Dr. Logan, and affixed a punishment of a fine not exceeding $5,000, and imprisonment of not less than 6 months, nor more than 3 years. A similar law is now in force.

[36] Joseph Bradley Varnum, Member of Congress from Massachusetts.

[37] Approved July 6 and 14, 1798, respectively.

by the numerous applications which are made to me for money, it must be conjectured by them, that I have resources far, very far indeed, beyond what the fact will warrant.

I can assure you, that I find it no easy matter to keep my expenditures within the limits of my receipts; and that, without travelling out of my own circle, I find more than enough to require all the surplusage of the latter, when I have any to spare.

I return the papers contained in your letter of the 24th. instant, agreeably to your request; and as I want no evidence of your request, I send the letter also. I am etc.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM RICHARDSON DAVIE

Mount Vernon, December 28, 1798.

Sir: Your letters, on the subject of Candidates and proper Characters for military appointments in the State of North Carolina, were received when I was in Philadelphia, where I have lately been at the request of the Secretary of War, to make arrangements for the organization of the additional Army about to be raised. While on this business, in conjunction with Major Generals Hamilton and Pinckney, it was thought best, from the want of knowledge of proper Characters in the three Southern States, to postpone a selection of military Officers from them, until General Pinckney should go there, and, upon the spot, with the aid of yourself and Brigadier General Washington, point out such Characters, as shall be distinguished for their qualifications, and who would be willing to serve.

Major General Pinckney, who will do me the favor to hand this letter to you, now goes on, charged with the Military arrangements in the Southern States, and will pay particular

attention to this business, in which I am persuaded he will receive from you all the information and assistance that it may be in your power to give. With sentiments of consideration and esteem etc.[38]

*To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, December 28, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 19th and 30th. of October came duly to hand, and would have received an earlier acknowledgment had I not been absent in a journey to Philadelphia (at the request of the Secretary of War) and but newly returned from that City.

The object of this journey was, among other things, to make a selection of characters from the numerous applicants for Military appointments in the Augmented force, for the new Corps.

In this business, Majors General Hamilton and Pinckney, and myself, were closely occupied near five weeks; but not having all the information we wished relative to the two Carolinas and Georgia; and thinking the arrangement for those States (as was my opinion with respect to the whole) would be better made within them than at the Seat of the Government, this part of the business is left to Genl. Pinckney, yourself and Genl. Davie of North Carolina, to complete.

The former carries with him all the information we possessed respecting the applications, to aid the execution of it. And as Genl. Pinckney is enabled, and doubtless will, inform you of the opinions which operated against the removal of Officers from the present existing Corps, to those which are to be raised, I shall briefly add that, besides its being unusual (except

[38] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

in marked cases) the selection would have opened the door to endless discontents.

I thought as you did, that nothing could ever have withdrawn me from my long saught retirement; during the remnant of a life which is journeying fast to the Mansions of my Ancesters. But we are little acquainted with ourselves and still less with the ways of Providence. It gives me pleasure, however, to learn from yourself, that you accept your appointment: the evidence of which you have, no doubt, long since received.

Present every good wish of mine, and the compliments of the Season, to Mrs. Washington and your family, and be assured of the sincere esteem etc.

*To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, December 30, 1798.

My dear Sir: Accompanying this, you will receive Letters for Brigadier General Davie and Washington; left open for your perusal, to be sealed before delivery.

The night after your departure being rainy, and the morning following thawing, makes me anxious to hear of your safe arrival as far as Fredericksburgh. Our best wishes will attend you to the end of your journey, and with sincere and affectionate regard, and regret to part with you and the Ladies, I am etc.

*To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, December 30, 1798.

My dear Sir: If General Pinckney should have left Richmond, let me request the favor of you to forward the packet herewith sent, in the manner he may have directed; or, as your

own judgment shall dictate, to ensure its delivery to him in Hallifax, or on the Road thro' North Carolina.

The Alien and Sedition Laws having employed many Pens, and we hear a number of tongues, in the Assembly of this State; the latter, I understand, to a very pernicious purpose; I send you the production of Judge Addison on these subjects. Whether any new lights are cast upon them by his charge, you will be better able to decide when you have read it. My opinion is, that if this, or other writings flashed conviction as clear as the Sun in its Meredian brightness, it would produce no effect in the conduct of the leaders of opposition; who, have points to carry, from which nothing will divert them in the prosecution. When you have read the charge give it to Bushrod Washington, or place it to any other uses you may think proper. I wish success to your Election, most sincerely, and if it should fail (of which I hope there is not the least danger) I shall not easily forgive myself for being urgent with you to take a Poll. I offer you the compliments of the Season, and with much truth remain etc.

*To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, December 30, 1798.

Dear Sir: Company, ever since my return home, has prevented my mentioning a matter before, which will be the subject of this letter now.

When the applications for Military appointments came to be examined at Philadelphia, it was pleasing to find among them, so many Gentlemen of family, fortune and high expectations, soliciting commissions; and not in the high grades.

This, and a thorough conviction that it was a vain attempt to keep Washington Custis to any literary pursuits, either in a

public Siminary, or at home under the direction of any one, gave me the first idea of bringing him forward as a Cornet of Horse. To this measure too I was induced by a conviction paramount in my breast, that if real danger threatened the Country, no young man ought to be an idle Spectator of its defence; and that, if a state of preparation would avert the evil of an Invasion, he would be entitled to the merit of proffered service, without encountering the dangers of War: and besides, that it might divert his attention from a matrimonial pursuit (for a while at least) to which his constitution seems to be too prone.

But, though actuated by these ideas, I intended to proceed no farther in the business than to provide a vacancy in one of the Troops of light Dragoons, and to consult Mrs. Stuart and his Grandmother, as to their inclinations respecting his filling it, before any intimation of it should be given to him: But, Mr. Lear hearing the matter talked of, and not knowing that this was the ground on which I meant to place the appointment (if the arrangement met the President's approbation) wrote to Washington on the subject, in order to know if it would be agreeable to him, or not, to receive it.

Under these circumstances (and his appearing highly delighted) concealment, I mean an attempt at it, would have proved nugatory. He stands arranged therefore a Cornet in the Troop to be Commanded by Lawrence Lewis (who I intended as his Mentor), Lawrence Washington junr. (of Chotanck) is the Lieutenant of the Troop. But all this it will be remembered is to be approved, first by the President, and consented to by the Senate to make it a valid act; and therefore, the less it is *publicly* talked of the better.

Mrs. Washington does not seem to have the least objection to his acceptance of the Commission; but it rests with Mrs. Stuart

to express her Sentiments thereon, and soon; as I requested the Secretary of War to forward the Commissions for *this* Troop of Light Dragoons, under cover to me.

The only hesitation I had, to induce the caution before mentioned, arose from his being an only Son; indeed the only male of his Great great Grandfathers family; but the same Providence that wd watch over and protect him in domestic walks, can extend the same protection to him in a Camp, or the field of battle, if he should ever be in one.

With Compliments to the family, and with the greatest esteem and regard &c.[39]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, December 30, 1798.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 25th. instant, enclosing Messrs. Blagden and Lenthals estimate of the cost of adding a Pediment, and Parapet to the roof of my buildings in the Federal City, has been duly received, but the plan, to which it refers, did not accompany it.

This plan, and other accounts, I ought to be possessed of, and Mr. Blagden is under promise to take a copy thereof for his own use, to work by, and send me the original draught. I pray you to remind him of this promise.

Presuming that it is not necessary for Mr. Blagden's convenience that I should, at this moment, decide upon the above estimate; nor whether I shall adopt the measure at all; I shall, if no disadvantage will attend the delay, suspend my determination until I can visit the City, and receive some further explanations respecting the consequent alterations which will be occasioned

[39] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

by this Pediment, not at present well understood by me; owing to my entire ignorance of the technical terms in which they are expressed. At which time also, I will make arrangements for giving further pecuniary Aids.

Rules of Architecture are calculated, I presume, to give Symmetry, and just proportion to all the Orders, and parts of building in order to please the eye. Small departures from *strict* rules are discoverable only by the skilful Architects, or by the eye of criticism; while ninety nine of a hundred, deficient of their knowledge, might be pleased with things not quite orthodox. This, more than probable, would be the case relative to a Pediment in the Roof over the *doors* of my houses in the City.

That a Parapet in addition (for the reasons you have assigned) would have a pleasing and useful effect, cannot be doubted. When the roof of a building is to be seen, and when it is designed for Chambers it must be seen, something to relieve the view of a plain and dead Surface, is indispensable: for this reason it was, I thought, and still do think that Dormars are to be prefered to Sky lights in the front; on the other hand, if the roof is so flat as not to be seen at all, or so low as, in a manner to be hid by a Parapet, I should give a decided preference to Sky lights.

These ideas, as you will readily perceive, proceed from a person who avows his ignorance of Architectural principles, and who has no other guide but his eye, to direct his choice: I never, for a moment; contemplated *two* Pediments, one over the door of each house: my great object, was to give them the appearance of one. But as I have observed in the former part of this letter: I will suspend coming to any decision until the consequences of the proposed alterations are better understood by me.

The freedom with which you have expressed your sentiments on this occasion, is highly pleasing to me. Sorry indeed should I have been on this, as I shall be on any future occurrence, when your opinion may be asked, if they are not rendered with the utmost frankness and candour.

The compliments of the Season are presented to Mrs. Thornton, yourself &ca. by all parts of this family, and with great esteem etc.

*To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, December 31, 1798.

My dear Sir: It gave me pleasure to hear by Judge Cushing, that you had returned from your Southern Circuit in good health. I presume you will soon have to undertake another journey, when I shall hope to see you.

I was not unmindful of your application in behalf of Captn. Blackburne.[40] But when the list of applicants came to be unfolded, it was found that there were so many requests of a similar nature, from Officers of the existing Corps, that it was impossible to comply with them, and difficult to discriminate; for which reasons, it was deemed best to reject them in toto; especially, as in the raising of New Corps, it rarely happens, that Officers are drawn from the old; and nothing but length of Service, or very distinguished merit, or powerful interest or influence, gives birth to the measure.

By this conveyance, I have sent to Genl Marshall, Judge Addisons charge to the Grand Juries of the County Courts of the fifth Circuit, of the State of Pennsylvania, and requested, after he had read it, to give it to you, or dispose of it in any other

[40] Richard Scott Blackburn (Blackburne). He was captain of United States Artillery and Engineers.

manner he might think proper. This charge is on the Liberty of Speech and of the Press, and is a justification of the Sedition and Alien Laws.

But I do not believe that any thing contained in it; in Evans's[41] Pamphlet;[42] or in any other writing, will produce the least change in the conduct of the leaders of opposition, to the measures of the General Government. They have points to carry, from which no reasoning, no inconsistency of conduct, no absurdity, can divert them. If, however, such writings should produce conviction in the minds of those who have, hitherto, placed faith in their assertions, it will be a fortunate event for this Country.

Has any thing been done, and what, with my correspondent Mr. Langhorne? I have heard, since my return from Philadelphia, that there has been some stir in the matter, but of the result I am ignorant. The family here present the Compliments of the Season to you and Mrs. Washington. I remain your sincere friend, &c.

PS. Let me pray you to get General Lee's Deed to me, drawn agreeably to your directions, acknowledged before Witnesses; who will prove it in the General Court; and I would thank you for causing this to be done.

My Deed to Lee is also sent, to be dealt with as you and he may deem proper: for further elucidation of this subject, I send (in confidence) my letters to Genl. Lee open for your perusal; after which please to seal and deliver them. You will perceive by the duplicate in what manner I am likely to be plaughed on obtaining payment for my Dismal Swamp Land, Sold him, but not conveyed.

[41] Thomas Evans, a Member of Congress from Virginia.

[42] Supposed to be the *Address to the People of Virginia Respecting the Alien and Sedition Laws*, by "A fellow-citizen of Virginia." (Richmond: 1798.)

*To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, December 31, 1798.

Dear Sir: Presuming you have not received the letter, of which the enclosed is a copy, I trouble you with a duplicate of it. And have sent to Mr. Bushrod Washington the Deeds to, and from you, for Execution; and pray you to acknowledge before Evidences *that* from you to me, *Now,* also out of date.

With great esteem etc.

*To PHILIP ROOTES

Mount Vernon, January 5, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 15th of November, was received by me whilst I was in Philadelphia, on public business; and too closely engaged to pay attention to matters of private concern. Being but lately returned to this place, must be my apology for not informing you sooner, that the land after which you enquire, as son of Captn. John Rootes deceased, was purchased of your father by the Honble. John Page (then of the Council of this State) for, and on my Account, and the full Sum, viz, One hundd pounds (to the best of my recollection) paid for the same, as can be made appear at any time; and the assignment satisfactorily exhibited at the Secretary's Office, on which a warrant issued, and a Patent was granted to Sir Your etc.

*To JOHN GREENWOOD

Mount Vernon, January 6, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 28th. Ulto with the parcel that accompanied it, came safe to hand; and I feel obliged by your attention to my requests, and for the directions you have given me.

Enclosed you have Bank notes for fifteen dollars, which I shall be glad to hear has got safe to your hands. If you should remove to Connecticut, I should be glad to be advised of it; and to what place;[43] as I shall always prefer your Services to that of any other, in the line of your present profession. I am etc.[44]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, January 6, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 28th Ulto. I have duly received.

I have no wish that any sentiments of mine, handed to you Officially, should be withheld from Congress, or the Public. All I should have desired, wou'd have been, that such parts of my Report of the proceedings which occupied the Attention of the two Major Generals and myself in Philadelphia, and fit for Legislative consideration, might have been communicated entire; with the reasons in support of the measures. Extracts, without these, does not always convey the sense, or the intention of the Reporter.

It is unnecessary I presume to add, that such other parts of the Report as depend upon Executive decision, ought not to be delayed. Many valuable Officers and Men have already been lost by it; and if the arrangement is not announced soon, more will be so. The Regulations with respect to the Uniforms, and Army distinctions, should be announced at the sametime (if approved) in clear and peremptory terms; to guard, in the first place, Officers against unnecessary expence, and in the second place to prevent fantastic decorations at the whim of

[43] The text of Greenwood's reply (January 11) is printed in *George Washington and Mount Vernon,* Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4). In the P. S. Greenwood says: "I never make any Charge Against you either in book or other ways."

[44] From the Greenwood Bequest in the Library of Congress.

Corps. I do not recollect whether it is so expressed, but it was the meaning, that all Officers who are not *directed* to be distinguished by feathers, are not to wear any; but if it is not *forbidden* at the time of the annunciation, to those who shall, the practice will still prevail in the lower grades; such is the propensity in favor of it.

That those who applied for higher grades than they have been appointed to shd decline accepting them, was in many instances, apprehended; but to find among others, who were appointed, unworthy characters, is more surprising; although it is an evidence of the truth of the doctrine I advanced, that there was no dependence (except in a few instances) on the *mode* of obtaining information, for reasons wch. I detailed at the time.

The Papers you have asked for went off before your letter was received, and r[45] safe with you, I hope, 'ere this.

I ought to have taken your advice with respect to drawing three, in place of two months pay. Not keeping the a/c of my expenditures to, from, and at Philadelphia myself; Mr. Lear paying them out of the money he received there, on his own account. and not coming to the knowledge of their amount until I got home, I presumed two months Pay &ca. would have covered all my expences; but with the purchase of a few articles incidental to my journey, I find that the aggregate, amounts to $1115.$^{55}/_{100}$ and the pay drawn, to $1039^{5}/_{100}$; without including in the first sum the preparatory expence of equipment, for the journey. One item alone of which, a horse, cost me $300.

This communication is incidental; not by way of application for a further allowance; for I had rather sustain the loss, and the fatiegues of the journey, than it should be thought I

[45] The letter "r" has been interlined by Washington.

was aiming to draw an Iota more from the Public, than my declaration at the acceptance of my Commission would authorise. With very great esteem etc.[46]

*To WILLIAM RUSSELL

Mount Vernon, January 6, 1799.

Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 20th. Ulto. and however desirous I was of receiving the Ram, and the Straw Machine in season, I am well apprised of the difficulties which were opposed to their passage, and must submit to the disappointment, in hopes of obtaining them in time for the next.

Such a ground borer as you describe, will be of singular use to me; and I shall thank you for sending it with the other articles, and the cost thereof; which shall be paid on demand. Having much Posting and railing to do, when the weather will permit, the sooner I could bring this borer into operation the more useful it would be to me.

I pray you to accept my best thanks for your kind wishes, and mine that you may see the return of many happy new Years; being Sir Your etc.

*To ISRAEL SHREVE

Mount Vernon, January 10, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 21st. of last Mo, came to my hands by the last Western Mail: But as to your Brother, I have never seen, nor heard a tittle from him: and to be plain, I never expect to obtain what is due from you, to me, but by a resort to a Court of Justice.

[46] From a photostat of the original in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

You know full well, because you have often been told it in serious and solemn terms, that the only inducement I had to sell the land on which you live, was necessity; to raise money, to enable me to pay the expences of my public Office; to which the compensation was inadequate; and for which I was oblige to have recourse to other means, to effectuate. I am now obliged to borrow money at the Banks, on notes for Sixty days, renewable at the end thereof for 60 days more, and so on; by which I am playing an interest nearly the double of what I shall receive. I appeal to your own judgment therefore to decide, if you think this right; especially, as you sold the greater part of the Land for the double of what you gave me, and had always time to prepare for my demands if proper measures had been pursued to meet them. But there are some people in this world (of which I fear you are one) who from inattention to engagements, or disinclination to pay debts, but by compulsion, that never are, nor never will be prepared, and when this is the case, endulgences are unavailing.

But I have made similar remarks to these, to you so often, that it is unnecessary to repeat them in this place, I shall therefore, and for the last time inform you, that if you can give the Sheriff satisfactory assurance of his receiving what was due on your judgment Bond last June (according to the Tenor thereof) on or before the first day of April next, this letter deposited in his hands, shall be his authority for staying the proceedings against you in whatever stage it may be till then; beyond which I cannot extend the time.

It is not my wish to ruin, or even to distress your family; but knowing the terms on which you bought the Land, and my motives for selling it, you have no right to distress me by withholding the money, and ought to be as unwilling.

I shall not conclude without informing you in explicit language, that I shall expect the next payment due on the Instalment Bond, when it becomes due (the first of June next) without fail; and expect measures will be taken to accomplish it, instead of resorting to fresh excuses for staving it off. I am etc.

*To PATRICK HENRY

(Confidential)

Mount Vernon, January 15, 1799.

Dear Sir: At the threshold of this letter, I ought to make an apology for its contents; but if you will give me credit for my motives, I will contend for no more, however erroneous my sentiments may appear to you.

It would be a waste of time, to attempt to bring to the view of a person of your observation and discernment, the endeavors of a certain party among us, to disquiet the Public mind among us with unfounded alarms; to arraign every act of the Administration; to set the People at variance with their Government; and to embarrass all its measures. Equally useless would it be to predict what must be the inevitable consequences, of such policy, if it cannot be arrested.

Unfortunately, and extremely do I regret it, the State of Virginia has taken the lead in this opposition. I have said the *State,* Because the conduct of its Legislature in the Eyes of the world, will authorise the expression; because it is an incontrovertable fact, that the principle leaders of the opposition dwell in it; and because no doubt is entertained, I believe, that with the help of the Chiefs in other States, all the plans are arranged; and systematically pursued by their followers in other parts of the Union; though in no State except Kentucky (that

I have heard of) has Legislative countenance been obtained, beyond Virginia.[47]

It has been said, that the great mass of the Citizens of this State are well affected, notwithstanding, to the General Government, and the Union; and I am willing to believe it, nay do believe it: but how is this to be reconciled with their suffrages at the Elections of Representatives; both to Congress and their State Legislature; who are men opposed to the first, and by the tendency of their measures would destroy the latter? Some among us have endeavoured to account for this inconsistency, and though convinced themselves, of its truth, they are unable to convince others; who are unacquainted with the internal policy of the State.

One of the reasons assigned is, that the most respectable, and best qualified characters amongst us, will not come forward. Easy and happy in their circumstances at home, and believing themselves secure in their liberties and property, will not forsake them, or their occupations, and engage in the turmoil of public business, or expose themselves to the calumnies of their opponents, whose weapons are detraction.

But at such a crisis as this, when every thing dear and valuable to us is assailed; when this Party hangs upon the Wheels of Government as a dead weight, opposing every measure that is calculated for defence and self preservation; abetting the nefarious views of another Nation, upon our Rights; prefering, as long as they durst contend openly against the spirit and resentment of the People, the interest of France to the Welfare of their own Country; justifying the first at the expence of the

[47] The "Kentucky Resolutions," so called, were adopted by that legislature Nov. 16, 1798; Virginia adopted similar resolves December 24. The gist of both sets of resolutions was that a State had the right to nullify an act of Congress, to which it did not accede. Thomas Jefferson drafted the Kentucky resolutions, and James Madison those passed by the Virginia legislature. The cause of the adoption of these resolutions was the Alien and Sedition laws.

latter: When every Act of their own Government is tortured by constructions they will not bear, into attempts to infringe and trample upon the Constitution with a view to introduce monarchy; When the most unceasing, and the purest exertion; were making, to maintain a Neutrality which had been proclaimed by the Executive, approved unequivocally by Congress, by the State Legislatures, nay, by the People themselves, in various meetings; and to preserve the Country in Peace, are charged as a measure calculated to favor Great Britain at the expence of France, and all those who had any agency in it, are accused of being under the influence of the former; and her Pensioners; When measures are systematically, and pertinaciously pursued, which must eventually dissolve the Union or produce coercion. I say, when these things are become so obvious, ought characters who are best able to rescue their Country from the pending evil to remain at home? rather, ought they not to come forward, and by their talents and influence, stand in the breach wch. such conduct has made on the Peace and happiness of this Country, and oppose the widening of it?

Vain will it be to look for Peace and happiness, or for the security of liberty or property, if Civil discord should ensue; and what else can result from the policy of those among us, who, by all the means in their power, are driving matters to extremity, if they cannot be counteracted effectually? The views of Men can only be known, or guessed at, by their words or actions. Can those of the *Leaders* of Opposition be mistaken then, if judged by this Rule? That they are *followed* by numbers who are unacquainted with their designs, and suspect as little, the tendency of their principles, I am fully persuaded. But, if their conduct is viewed with indifference; if there is activity and misrepresentation on one side, and supineness on the other, their numbers, accumulated by Intriguing, and discontented foreigners under proscription, who were at war with

their own governments; and the greater part of them with *all* Government, their numbers will encrease, and nothing, short of Omniscience, can foretel the consequences.

I come now, my good Sir, to the object of my letter, which is, to express a hope, and an earnest wish, that you wd. come forward at the ensuing Elections (if not for Congress, which you may think would take you too long from home) as a candidate for representation, in the General Assembly of this Commonwealth.[48]

There are, I have no doubt, very many sensible men who oppose themselves to the torrent that carries away others, who had rather swim with, than stem it, without an able Pilot to conduct them; but these are neither old in Legislation, nor well known in the Community. Your weight of character and influence in the Ho. of Representatives would be a bulwark against such dangerous sentiments as are delivered there at present. It would be a rallying point for the timid, and an attraction of the wavering. In a word, I conceive it of immense importance at this Crisis, that you should be there; and I would fain hope that all minor considerations will be made to yield to the measure.

If I have erroneously supposed that your sentiments on these subjects are in unison with mine; or if I have assumed a liberty which the occasion does not warrant, I must conclude as I began, with praying that my motives may be received as an apology; and that my fear, that the tranquillity of the Union, and of this State in particular, is hastening to an awful crisis, has extorted them from me.

With great, and very sincere regard, and respect, I am &c.

[48] Henry's answer (February 12) is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, being one of the letters abstracted from the *Washington Papers* by William B. Sprague. A photostat is in the *Washington Papers*. In it Henry says: "My Children would blush to know, that you and their Father were Cotemporarys, and that when you asked him to throw in his Mite for the public Happiness, he refused to do it."

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, January 15, 1799.

Dear Sir: You would oblige me by forwarding the enclosed letters to their respective Addresses, by such opportunities as you may think safest and best; and if you should hear of their miscarriage (by Capture of the Vessel) that you would be so good as to inform me thereof. I am etc.[49]

*To WILLIAM HETH

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 12th. Inst: enclosing the Account of General Pinckney's reception at Peterburgh, came duly to hand.

The attentions which were shewn him, were, in my opinion, judiciously bestowed; and must be gratifying to the lovers of merit; to none more than to Dear Sir Your etc.[50]

*To REVEREND BRYAN, LORD FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1799.

Dear Sir: Since your departure from Mount Eagle, I have been favored with three letters from you.

The first, dated in Hampton Road, June the 17th, came speedily to hand; the 2d, begun on the 21st. and ended the 23d. of August, in London and the 3d. from York of the 7th. of September, have also been received at the following times viz.

[49] From a photostat of the original in the Bibliothèque Municipale, Nantes, France. It is indorsed by Pickering: "With one letter to Mr. Murray and one to Lafayette, to be forwarded."

[50] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by E. F. Bonaventure, of New York.

That from York, a day or two before I commenced a journey for Philadelphia on the 4th of November, and the other from London, a few days after my return from thence, on the 20th of December.

For the details contained in these several letters, I pray you to accept my thanks; and congratulations on your safe arrival in England, although the Passage, on the whole, was not altogether as expeditious and agreeable as you expected. To this prayer, let me add my best wishes for the perfect restoration of your health, and the accomplishment of such other objects as might have induced you to undertake the Voyage. After which it would give your friends in this Country much pleasure to hail your return.

For your care of the letters I took the liberty of committing to you, my grateful acknowledgments are offered.

When I presented my Valedictory address to the People of the United States, in September 1796, I little thought that any event would occur in my day that could again withdraw me from the Retirement after which I had been so long panting; but we know little of ourselves, and still less of the ways of Providence. The injurious treatment this Country had received from France, in an open violation of the Treaty between the two Countries, and of the Laws of Nations. The Insults and Indignities with which all our Overtures for an amicable adjustment of the disputes were treated. The increasing depredations on our Commerce, accompanied with outrage and threats, if we did not comply with their demands, leaving no hope of obtaining restitution for the past, or preserving the little that remained, or the Country from Invasion, but by the adoption of vigorous measures for self-defence having come fully to the view of the People, their resentments have been roused, and with one voice as it were, have made a tender of

their lives and fortunes to repel any attempts which may be made on the Constitution or Government of their Country. In consequence of which, and to be prepared for the dernier resort, if unhappily we shall be driven to it, Troops are to be raised, and the United States placed in a Posture of defence. Under these circumstances, and it appearing to be the wish of my Countrymen, and the request of the governing Powers that I should take charge of their Armies, I am embarked so far in the business as will appear by my letter to the President of the 13th. of July last; which, as it has run through all the Newspapers here and Published in many of the Foreign Gazettes, you probably may have seen; and though still at home, where indeed I hope to remain, under a persuasion that the French will discover the injustice and absurdity of their conduct, I hold myself in readiness to gird on the Sword, if the immergency shall require it.

Notwithstanding the Spirit of the People is so animated, that party among us who have been uniform in their opposition to all the measures of Government; in short to every Act, either of Executive or Legislative Authority, which seemed to be calculated to defeat French usurpations, and to lessen the influence of that Nation in our Country, hang upon, and clog its wheels as much as in them lye; and with a rancour, and virulence which is scarcely to be conceived. torturing every act, by unnatural construction, into a design to violate the Constitution, Introduce monarchy, and to establish an Aristocracy, and what is more to be regretted, the same Spirit seems to have laid hold of the major part of the Legislature of this State, while all the other States in the Union (Kentucky, the child of Virginia, excepted) are coming forward with the most unequivocal evidences of their approbation of the measures which have been adopted by both, for self preservation. In what such

a spirit, and such proceedings will issue, is beyond the reach of short sighted man to predict, with any degree of certainty. I hope well; because I have always believed, and trusted, that that Providence which has carried us through a long and painful War with one of the most powerful Nations in Europe, will not suffer the discontented among ourselves, to produce more than a temporary interruption to the permanent Peace and happiness of this rising Empire. That they have been the cause of our present disquitudes, and the means of Stimulating (by mis-representing the Sentiments of the mass of Citizens of this Country) the Directory of France to their unwarrantable Acts, not from more real affection to the Nation than others possess, but to facilitate the design of subverting their own government, I have no more doubt than that I am now in the act of writing you this letter.

It was at the request of the Secretary of War, my Journey to Philadelphia was undertaken, to assist in the formation of the Augmented Force and to effect some other Military arrangements; and although your letter from York of the 7th. of September came to hand before I set out, and was taken with me to be acknowledged from thence, yet my time, and attention, was so much occupied with the business that carried me there, that I never found leisure to do it.

Lady Huntington as you may have been told *was* a correspondent of mine, and did me the honor to claim me as a relation; but in what degree, or by what connexion it came to pass, she did not inform me, nor did I ever trouble her Ladyship with an enquiry. The favourable sentiments which others, you say, have been pleased to express respecting me, cannot but be pleasing to a mind [*sic*] who always walked on a straight line, and endeavoured as far as human frailties, and perhaps strong passions, would enable him, to discharge the relative duties to his

Maker and fellow-men, without seeking any indirect or left handed attempts to acquire popularity.

Our Crops of Wheat and Indian Corn last year (except in places) were extremely short. The drought of the Autumn exceeded any thing that has been recollected, insomuch that the Mills were scarcely able to work before New Years day, and the Fly has again begun its ravages on the Wheat in the Counties above us. This calamity, with the severity of the Drought on the Fall seeding, has given a discouraging aspect to the ensuing Crop of Wintr Grain.

We have the pleasure, frequently, of seeing or hearing from Mrs. Fairfax; and on Wednesday last, Mrs. Washington and myself took a family dinner at Mount Eagle, and left all the family in good health and Spirits in the afternoon. Miss Custis was, at that time, with her Mother at Hope Park, or she would have accompanied us on that visit. She is now returned, and unites with Mrs. Washington and myself in offering best wishes for your health and safe return. And with very great, and sincere esteem etc.

P. S. Finding that I could not comprise what I had to say in one sheet of Paper, I have rambled on until I have almost filled a second.

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 13th. Inst. has been duly received.

It would oblige me very much if you could procure, and send me by the first opportunity which may offer, One bushel of English, or blue grass seeds, *Fresh* and *good,* without which, or if it be defective, or foul, my purpose, which is to sow a Lawn before my door, would not be answered.

If Blue grass-seeds cannot be obtained, send *white* Clover seed, if to be had, of equal quantity as above.

From Mr. Parish I expected two Hats, which may come with the Boots and Book case; the last of which it would be pleasing to receive. Mrs. Washington unites with me in offering the complimts. of the Season to Mrs. Biddle yrself and family. I am etc.

*To SIR JOHN SINCLAIR

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1799.

Sir: On the 10th. of last July I had the honor to write you a pretty long letter on various subjects, and hearing, some considerable time afterwards, that the Ship (Suffolk) by which it had been sent, was Captured by a French Cruiser, from whence none of my letters ever reach their Address, I did, not long since, transmit a duplicate; which, though unaccompanied with the early Wheat that the above Vessel contained, I hope has met a better fate.

I wish also that the proceedings of the National Board of Agriculture, which you informed me It had the goodness to direct should be neatly bound, and sent to me, may not have fallen into the same rapacious hands; as they have never been received.

It is now sometime since I had the honor to receive your favor of the 6th. of June, accompanying the history of the origin and "progress of the Statistical account of Scotland" for which I pray you to accept my best thanks. That letter should not have remained so long unacknowledged had it not been received a few days before I commenced a journey to Philadelphia on business with the Secretary of War, where I was detained near seven weeks, and so closely occupied in the matters which carried me there, as to render all Minor considerations inadmissible.

It is not for me, Sir, to express an opinion with respect to the change in the Presidency of the National Board of Agriculture. I have no doubt but that Lord Somerville is a very meritorious character, and well deserves the honor to which he is Elected. I am also perfectly well satisfied that no one as far as my opportunities have enabled me to judge, could fill that office with more zeal, more honor to himself, and more usefulness to the Public, than Sir John Sinclair; and none who will merit in a higher degree than himself, the thanks he has received. Happy is it then for the Nation, to possess such characters to chuse from.

No one is more deeply impressed than I am, of the importance of National encouragement to Agriculture. No one can approve more of such an Institution as you have been the promoter of than myself. Nor no one who wishes more ardently than I do, to see such a measure adopted in the United States. but we must look I fear to a more tranquil period for the accomplishment of it; Endeavouring in the mean while, to draw all the advantages we can from the labours of others. With great respect, and sincere esteem etc.

*To JAMES WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon (in Virginia), January 20, 1799.

Sir: Through the goodness of Mr. Adams, the American Minister at Berlin, I am indebted for the safe conveyance of your letter dated the 19th. of Octr [51] in that City; and through the same medium I have the honour to present this acknowledgment of it.

There can be but little doubt, Sir, of our descending from the same stock, as the branches of it proceeded from the same

[51] In the *Washington Papers.*

Country. At what time your Ancestors left England is not mentioned. Mine came to America nearly One hundred and fifty years ago.

The regular course of application for Military appointments, is to the President of the United States, through the Secretary of War. But it would be deceptious, not to apprise you beforehand, that it does not accord with the policy of this Government to bestow Offices, Civil or Military, upon Foreigners to the exclusion of our own Citizens; first, because there is an animated zeal in the latter to serve their Country; and secondly, because the former, seldom content with the rank they sustain in the Service of their own Country, look for higher Appointments in this; which, when bestowed, unless there is obvious cause to justify the measure, is pregnant with discontent, and therefore it is not often practiced, Except in those branches of the Military Science which relate to Engineering and Gunnery: for in those our Military establishment is defective, and men of known and acknowledged abilities with ample testimonials thereof, would be certainly encouraged.

Deeming it better to give this candid detail, than to raise hopes that might prove falacious, is the best apology I can offer for my plain dealing.

At the sametime, be pleased to accept the assurances of my being Sir, your &c.

*To JOHN QUINCY ADAMS[52]

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1799.

Sir: Have been honoured with a letter from you, dated at Berlin the 29th. of Octr. last; covering one from a namesake of mine, and who, very probably, may be a distant relation;

[52] Washington addressed him as "John Adams junr."

as our families were from the same Country. Mine earlier than his; two brothers migrating during the Commonwealth of England. or rather, during the troubles of Charles the First. Not knowing through what other medium to address him, I take the liberty of sending my answer to his request under cover to you.

You know, my good Sir, that it is not the policy of this Country to employ Aliens, where it can well be avoided, either in the Civil or Military walks of life; but, for want of provident care and foresight, they will find themselves (indeed begin now to feel it) under the necessity of resorting to foreign aid for skilful men in the Engineering and Artillery Corps. and if my namesake is well instructed in either of these branches of Military science, which, bye the by is hardly to be expected from his age, there would be no doubt of his favourable reception, without which I think it would be deceptious to encourage hopes of employment in the Army of the United States: for there is a species of selfimportance in all foreign Officers, that cannot be gratified without doing injustice to meritorious characters of our own Countrymen, who conceive, and justly, where there is no great preponderancy of experience, or merit, that they are entitled to the occupancy of all Offices in the gift of their Government.

When I offered my Valedictory Address to the People of the United States, I little thought that any event would arise in my day, that could withdraw me from the Retreat in wch. I expected to pass the remnent of a life (worn down with cares) in ruminating on past scenes, and contemplating the future granduer of this rising Empire. But we know little of ourselves, and much less of the designs of Providence. With great, and sincere respect etc.

To DAVID STUART

Mount Vernon, January 22, 1799.

Dear Sir: Washington leaves this day on a visit to Hope Park, which will afford you an opportunity to examine the progress he has made in the studies he was directed to pursue.

I can, and I believe I do, keep him in his room a certain portion of the twenty-four hours, but it will be impossible for me to make him attend to his books, if inclination on his part is wanting; nor while I am out if he chooses to be so, is it in my power to prevent it. I will not say this is the case, nor will I run the hazard of doing him injustice, by saying he does not apply as he ought to what has been prescribed, but no risk will be run, and candor requires I should declare it as my opinion, that he will not derive much benefit in any course which can be marked out for him at this place, without an able preceptor always with him.

What is best to be done with him I know not. My opinion always has been, that the university in Massachusetts would have been the most eligible seminary to have sent him to; first, because it is on a larger scale than any other; and secondly, because I believe that the habits of the youth there, whether from the discipline of the school, or the greater attention of the people generally to morals, and a more regular course of life, are less prone to dissipation and excess than they are at the colleges south of it. It may be asked, if this was my opinion, why did I not send him there? The answer is as short as to me it was weighty; being the only male of his line, and knowing (although it would have been submitted to) that it would have proved a heart-rending stroke to have him at that distance, I was disposed to try a nearer seminary, of good repute,

which, from some cause, or combination of causes, has not, after the experiment of a year, been found to answer the end that was contemplated. Whether to send him there now, or, indeed, to any other public school, is, indeed, problematical, and to misspend his time at this place would be disgraceful to himself and to me.

If I were to propose to him to go to the university at Cambridge, in Massachusetts, he might, as has been usual for him on like occasions, say, he would go wherever I chose to send him, but if he should go, contrary to his inclination, and with out a disposition to apply himself properly, an expense without any benefit would result from the measure. Knowing how much I have been disappointed, and my time disturbed by his conduct, he would not, I am sure, make a candid disclosure of his sentiments to me on this or any other plan I might propose for the completion of his education, for which reason, I would pray that you (or perhaps Mrs. Stuart could succeed better than any one) would draw from him a frank and explicit disclosure of what his own wishes and views are; for, if they are absolutely fixed, an attempt to counteract them by absolute control would be as idle as the endeavor to stop a rivulet that is constantly running. Its progress, while mound upon mound, is erected, may be arrested, but this must have an end, and everything will be swept away by the torrent. The more I think of his entering William and Mary, unless he could be placed in the bishop's family, the more I am convinced of its inutility on many accounts, which had better be the subject of oral communication than by letter. I shall wish to hear from you on the subject of this letter. I believe Washington means well, but has not resolution to act well. Our kind regards to Mrs. Stuart and family, and I am &c.[53]

[53] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington*.

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 23, 1799.

Dear Sir: In my last, written to you a few days ago, I intended, but forgot it, to enquire what price flour and Wheat bore in your Market.

I would thank you for giving these in your next. There used to be the prices current in one of the Gazettes of Philadelphia, which, tho' a very useful thing, seems to be discontinued. Let me pray you therefore, when at any time you may have occasion to write to me, to mention the price of the above Articles, and whether they are likely to rise or fall.

As a Farmer, Wheat and Flour constitute my principal concerns; it behoves me therefore to dispose of them upon the best terms. I am etc. [H.S.P.]

*To JOHN TAYLOE[54]

Mount Vernon, January 23, 1799.

Dear Sir: The Gazettes, which I presume you have seen, having announced your appointment as Major in the Regiment of Light Dragoons,[55] I shall add no more than a wish that it may be acceptable to you; as it is a very honorable one for any Gentleman who has not been in, or seen much Service.

The other Major,[56] now is, and has been in the Dragoon Service several years a Captain; is a man of family; and genteel in his person; has given proofs of his gallant behaviour, and was wounded in General Wayne's victory over the combined Indian force in the year 1794. Colo. Watts,[57] you will no doubt

[54] John Tayloe, III, of Caroline County, Va.

[55] He was appointed second major, but declined the appointment.

[56] Solomon Van Rensselaer. He was appointed first major, Jan. 8, 1799, and honorably discharged in June, 1800.

[57] Lieut. Col. Commandant John Watts. He had been captain, Third Continental Dragoons; was wounded at Eutaw Springs; honorably discharged in June, 1800.

have heard, was esteemed one of the best Cavalry Officers we had in the Revolutionary War; and whose merit is particularly well known in this State. In a word, I believe it may be said, that a more respectable Corps of Officers cannot well be, than this, if all the appointments are accepted.

Recollecting the desire expressed by you when I had the pleasure of your Company at this place a year or more ago, of purchasing one of my young Jack Asses when I shd be disposed to part with any, and now having three for that purpose; out of respect to your request, I give you notice thereof.

All three of them, were got by that valuable Jack Ass, Compound (who with another equally valuable, was poisoned, or died in most violent agonies, last winter) who was the descendant of Royal Gift, out of an Imported Jenny from Malta. The oldest of the three, is rising five, about twelve hands high. The other two are rising four, one about twelve hands, the other less. The first, and last mentioned, are descended from an Imported Jenny from Surinam, the other, she is Granddam to.

I have been thus particular, that you may be the better enabled to decide whether the price I shall ask is such as you would be disposed to give. It is Eight hundred pounds of any one, who will take the three. Three hundred for the oldest because he is *full* old enough to cover in the Spring; three hundred for the largest of the four years old, because he promises, I think, to be the largest and finest of the three, and may cover a few mares the ensuing Spring; And two hundred and fifty for the other, because he is the smallest, and probably will continue to be so.

Ready money would be very convenient to me, as my buildings in the City call for it; but I would sell on such credit as could be agreed on, receiving interest for the amt, until paid. With very great esteem etc.

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, January 23, 1799.

Dear Sir: It is quite time that you shd. determine whether you will take *Young Royal Gift* to cover at your House the ensuing Season, or not; that he may be advertised accordingly.

And for your information it is necessary to add that, he is rather slow in covering; indeed will not cover at all, unless there is a Jenny by, to excite and stimulate him to the Act. He is now in his prime being 7 years old, spring coming and about 13½ hands high; Son of Royal Gift, out of one of the Imported Jennies, from Malta. If you take the Jack, and have no female Asses in your neighbourhood, it will be necessary to take one or two from hence; and this perhaps would be the safest and best mode.

Some very careful person should have the care of them on the Road; the contrary of which, occasioned the loss of the old Spanish Jack. Let me hear from you on this subject as soon as you can, after this letter gets to hand, that I may know, in time, whether *young Royal Gift* is to be advertised for covering *here,* or *with you.*

It would be very convenient and acceptable thing, for me to receive my Rents, or even a part of them, at as early a period as you can furnish me with them. On what I supposed, at the time, a moral certainty of receiving considerable payments (before Christmas) for Lands I had disposed of, I have entered into a Contract for building two houses in the Federal City (for the accommodation of Congress, the members I mean,) and am obliged by that Contract to make considerable advances of money this Winter, and early in the Spring; which I shall not be enabled to do, under the above disappointments, without having recourse to borrowing from the Bank (at its

ruinous interest) unless I can be aided by my Rents, and other resources on which I did not calculate. Let me know what dependence I can place on the first.

How far does Major Harrison, who owns the land near my Mill, live from you?

The latter end of October, or beginning of November last, (dated I perceive the 4th. of Novembr.) I wrote him a letter of which the enclosed is a Press Copy, taken at the time. But never having heard from him since, the presumption is, it never reached his hands, or an acknowledgment of it, at least, would have been made. If you should see Majr. Harrison, shew him the Copy, and ask what answer he is disposed to give it. The family here are all well, and unite in best regards to Mrs. Lewis and yourself, with Dear Sir Your etc.

To LAWRENCE LEWIS

Mount Vernon, January 23, 1799.

Dear Lawrence: Your letter of the 10th instant I received in Alexandria, on Monday, whither I went to become the guardian of Nelly,[58] thereby to authorize a license for your nuptials on the 22d of next month, when, I presume, if your health is restored, there will be no impediment to your union.

The letters herewith sent were received two or three days ago; and until your letter of the above date come to hand, I knew not with certainty to what place to direct them. They are put under cover to your brother, in Fredericksburgh, to await your arrival at that place.

I enclose the one to your lieutenant, Mr. Lawrence Washington,[59] for safety, and because it may be necessary that you

[58] Eleanor Parke Custis.

[59] Son of Lawrence, of Chotanck. He was commissioned lieutenant of Light Dragoons in January, 1799, and honorably discharged in June, 1800.

should have a conference with him respecting the plan for recruiting your troops when the order and the means for doing so are received. All, however, that you, and Washington Custis,[60] have to do at present, is simply to acknowledge the receipt of the letter from the secretary of war, to inform him whether you do, or do not accept the appointment, and in either case to request him to thank the President for the honor he has conferred on you in making it. Perhaps, as this acknowledgment will not be as prompt as might have been expected from you and Custis (for it was supposed that both of you were to be found at Mount Vernon), it would not be amiss if you were to add, that being on an excursion into the upper country is the cause of it. All here, as I presume you will learn from a more pleasing pen, are well; I therefore shall only add, that I am, etc.[61]

*To FRANCIS DEAKINS

Mount Vernon, January 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th. instant enclosing one from Mr. Hesekiah Veatch of the 1st. of December last, with a statement of the A/c against Mr. Charles McDavitt is received.

Your directions to, Mr. Veatch's proceedings in consequence thereof, respecting the mode of obtaining the Rent due from McDavitt, were very proper, and are very satisfactory to me. The Bond of the latter may either remain in Mr. Veatch's hands, or yours, as you shall judge best, to be acted upon when it becomes due.

I have received also, enclosed in your letter, a Hogshead of Tobacco, on account of Rent due to me from Mrs. Priscilla

[60] George Washington Parke Custis. He was commissioned cornet of Light Dragoons in January, 1799, and honorably discharged in June, 1800.

[61] From the printed text in Custis's *Recollections of Washington.*

Beall, as pr. receipt enclosed; and feel very much obliged by your kind attention to my interest in these matters. With very great esteem etc.

*To BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE

Mount Vernon, January 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 11th of May, 16th of July, 20th. of August and 10th. of October are all before me. The receipt of the two first I have acknowledged; but as my letters wch. travel across the Atlantic have not been fortunate in getting to their Address, these may have shared the usual fate. Being of little importance, however, no duplicate was sent, nor copy taken. Nor is it at all material *now*, whether they got to hand or not.

Your letter of the 20th. of August found me in Philadelphia, whither I had gone at the request of the Secretary of War, to aid in the formation of the new Corps, about to be raised; and in some other Military arrangements which were necessary, at that time, to be adjusted: and coming in the nick of time, your then wish to engage in a Military career was attended to, and you were, accordingly, appointed to the Command of an Infantry Company, in the first Regiment of Virginia, to be Commanded by Colo. Thomas Parker[62] of Frederick; which has been rendered valid by the President and Senate, since.

The business which carried me to Philadelphia, detained me *in the City* from the 10th of Novr. until the 14th. of Decr, and occasioned an absence from home of near Seven weeks, during which time I was so much occupied as not to be able to give you

[62] Lieut. Col. Commandant Thomas Parker. He is listed as commanding the Eighth Infantry, and his residence given as Winchester, Va. Washington used the old name of Frederick, by which Winchester was known in colonial times.

advice of this occurrence; and soon after my return, your letter of the 10th. of October came to hand informing me of your having been received into the family of Mr. King, as his Secretary.

You have now, I presume, the option of remaining there, or of accepting the Commission before mentioned.[63] In the choice of which you have your own inclination, and some other considerations to consult. Both are attended with uncertainties, but which most so, is not easy to decide. The augmented Corps, in which you are appointed, are by Law, to exist no longer than the dispute with France shall continue; but how long this will be, will require more wisdom than I possess to foretell; and you know, without information from me, what a bug-bear a standing Army (as a few Regiments with us, are called, though liable to be disbanded at any moment, by withholding the appropriation for yr. support) is, in the eyes of all those who are continually raising Spectres and Hobgoblins to affrighten themselves and alarm the People: and how certain it is that ours (with their consent) will not exist a momt. longer than it can be avoided by their endeavors; whether the cause which gave rise to it ceases, or not. Of the prospect before you in the Diplomatic line, you are as competent to judge of it as I am; But, as it is probable the Commission will be held for you until your determination is known, no time should be lost in announcing it to me, or at the War Office.

Lawrence Lewis is appointed a Captn. in the Corps of light Dragoons; but before he enters the Camp of Mars, he is to engage in that of Venus with Nelly Custis, on the 22d. of next month; they having, while I was at Philadelphia, without my having the smallest suspicion that such an affair was in

[63] Dandridge declined this commission of captain. He is listed by Dr. Carlos E. Godfrey's *Organization of the Provisional Army, 1798–1800,* as assigned to the Seventh Infantry.

agitation, formed their Contract for this purpose. Washington Craik [64] is appointed a Lieutenant in the said Corps, and Washington Custis is made Cornet in Lewis's Troop; for it was found impracticable to keep him longer at College with any prospect of advantages; so great was his aversion to study; tho' addicted to no extravagant or vicious habits; but from mere indolence, and a deriliction to exercise the powers of his mind, and those talents with which nature had blessed him. The Army, generally, will be very respectably Officered.

The General Assembly of this State is in Session; and, by the accounts of its proceedings running into every kind of opposition to the measures of the General government, and into all the extravagant Resolutions which folly can devise; in what they will issue, it is difficult to say.

I am sorry to inform you that your brother John Dandridge is no more. He paid the debt of nature a few days since; after having (as we have been informed) been in bad health for sometime.

Your Aunt, who is as well as usual and Nelly Custis, Washington is from home, unite with me in every good wish for you; and with thanks for your offer of rendering me any Services in your power, I am etc.

Present me most respectfully to Mr. and Mrs. King [illegible]. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, January 27, 1799.

My dear Sir: The enclosed letter for Mr. McAlpin (my Tayler in Philadelphia) left open for your perusal, may be delivered, or not, as you shall judge best. And if the former takes

[64] George Washington Craik. He was honorably discharged in June, 1800.

place, to be accompanied with your sentiments on the doubtful parts of it.

It is predicated first, on the supposition that the Uniform for the different grades of Officers, is conclusively fixed, and to be established as a standing regulation. and secondly, on the presumption that no attempts will be made *this* Session of Congress, to repeal the Law for augmenting the army of the United States, or to reduce it below its present establishment. If the first is liable to no change, and there is no indication of an attempt to effect the latter, I would go to the expence of providing a uniform previously to the spur of the occasion; conformably to the regulations Ordered by the War Department, agreeably to the Presidents Command. On the other hand, if either of the above things is likely to happen, I shall suspend doing it.

On re-considering the Uniform for the Commander in Chief, it has become a matter of doubt with me (although, as it respected myself, *personally,* I was against *all* Embroidery), whether embroidery on the Cape, Cuffs and Pockets of the Coat, and none on the *Buff* waistcoat, would not have a disjointed, and aukward appearance. It is neither required, nor forbidden. Which then, in your judgment, or that of Connoisseurs, if you should converse with any on the subject, would be most eligable in itself, and accordent to what is expected. To *you* I submit the matter. As I also do whether the Coat shall have slash Cuffs (with blue flaps passing through them) and slash pockets, or both to be in the usual manner.

These, apparently, are trifling matters to trouble you with; but, as it is the commencement of a New Scene, it is desirable that the thing should take a right direction. I have therefore, upon the whole, and since I began this letter, determined to direct Mr. McAlpin to apply to, and follow your directions in

making the Uniform. I should not prefer a heavy embroidery, or one containing much work. a light and neat one, would, in my opinion be more elegant, and more desirable; as well for the Coat, as for the Waistcoat, if the latter is to receive any. If there are workers in this way in Philadelphia (and the French are most likely to understand it) they will, no doubt, have a variety of Patterns to chuse from. and I pray you to examine them.

The Eagle too, having become part of the American Cockade; has any of them been brought into use yet? My idea of the size is, that it ought not to be larger than would cover a quarter of a dollar at most and should be represented (for the Officers) as clothed with their feathers. this any ingenious Silver Smith can execute; and if four were sent to me, I would thank you; and would remit the cost, as soon as known to me.

I must further beg, that proper Stars for the Epaulets (the latter I possess) may be sent to me with the other articles, that I may be equipped in dress *at least;* and if there are any tasty Cockades (but not whimsically foolish) in wearg., or any one, who can make them, I should be glad if they were sent with the Eagles fixed thereon, ready to be placed in the hats. Does the Presidt. and yourself wear them? Excuse this scrawl and trouble, as I wish to set out right; and be assured of the sincere esteem and regard of Dear Sir etc.[65]

*To JAMES McALPIN

Mount Vernon, January 27, 1799.

Sir: The Secretary of War, by Command of the President of the U: States, having announced to the Army the Uniforms which are to be worn by Officers of the different grades, I have

[65] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

to request that you would make mine conformably thereto; and send it on so as to be here at farthest by the 22d. of February.

There being some doubt in my mind respecting the Sort of Cuff and Pocket flap, that is, Whether the first shall simply turn up, or have a slash through it, with a flap the colour of the cloth (blue, with three buttons and holes) also embroidered; and whether the second shall have a cross pocket in the usual form, or slashed (that is inclining downwards). There being a doubt I say respecting these matters, as also whether the Buff waistcoat is to have a corresponding embroidery down the front, and round the flaps to suit that on the Cuff, Cape and Flaps on the Coat, you will please to receive precise directions from the Secretary of War, and conform thereto, on all these points.

Let your blue cloth be of the best and softest French or Spanish; and the finest you can procure, of a deep colour. And the Buff of the very best sort, fine, and not inclining to yellow or Orange, like what I have been accustomed to wear. The buttons are to be plain, flat, and of the best double gilt.

I presume there are many workers in embroidery in the City of Philadelphia; in that case make choice of the one who is most celebrated and esteemed and best. Those who follow this business will, unquestionably, be possessed of a variety of patterns. Let these be taken to the Secretary of War to chuse from.

The waistcoat should be straight breasted, that is without lapels. and the Cuffs of the Coat neither large, nor tight; observing a just medium between the two.

I again repeat my wish that they may be with me by the 22d. of Feby., send your account along with the Cloathes, and the Money shall be remitted to you; or payment ordered there by, Sir etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, January 28, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your letters of the 5th. 10th. 21st and 22d. of this month, with their several enclosures.

It is well known to you that in selecting, from the documents laid before us, suitable Characters to fill the respective grades in the twelve additional Regimts. the Major Generals and myself spared no pains to find such as appeared, on every account, most likely to render efficient service to their Country and do credit to the Appointment. At the same time we were not inattentive to a proper distribution of Officers in the several States from which they were taken, so far as we had materials before us from which such distribution could be made. But it appeared in several instances that there were large districts of States from which there were few or no applications. In such cases we could only make up the quota from the other parts of the State from whence applications were more numerous. We had not a personal knowledge of Characters in the districts before mentioned to enable us to give them their due proportion without applications or recommendations; and even if we had possessed that knowledge, we must, without knowing whether certain persons would serve or not, have hazarded nominations and appointments which might not have been accepted. And the inconveniences and disadvantages attending this you know but too well.

That some persons would decline accepting an appointment in a grade below that for which they had applied, was to be expected. But unless evidence of disqualification, which was not known to the General Officers, should be brought forward, it was expected that their selection, made with the greatest care, uninfluenced by any local or personal considerations,

and with an eye only to the public good, would not be set aside on light grounds.

In speaking on this subject I would not be understood as expressing any dissatisfaction on account of the withholding, postponing or rejecting names which were handed in; because I presume there is sufficient ground for such conduct. I would only wish to shew, that having before us all the evidence respecting characters which could at that time be obtained, and examining and comparing with the greatest care the relative qualifications and pretensions of each, we were less liable to commit an Error than if we had to contend with any personal prejudices, or had the same motives to influence our conduct which others might have from local considerations.

I observe in the appointment of the Cavalry Officers that the name of Lawrence Lewis is placed the third among the Captains. In the Schedule handed to you, they stood, Hite 1st Captn. and Lewis 2d Captn. in the six additional Troops. As Hite's nomination has been withheld, I presume that Lewis comes in of course as the first Captain in these six troops. To this place he seems entitled as much from the service he has seen (which was on the Western Expedition, where he acted as Aid to General Morgan during that time, and which I believe is the only service that has been seen by either of the other Captains) as from his proper age and respectable standing in society.

In speaking of the Cavalry I must observe, that in specifying their Uniform it was intended that their breeches should be of leather, and consequently buff instead of white. This, I doubt not, will strike you as being most proper on every account; and in that case no time should be lost in correcting the error before the officers shall have provided their Uniform.

Enclosed is a letter I recd last Eveg from Genl. Spotswood, by which you will see that the name of Thomas instead of John shd. be prefixed to Capt Green[66] of Spotsylvania. This young gentln. from all accounts promises to be a very valuable Officer as he has been an useful and meritorious Citizen. You will be pleased to have the alteration made in its regular form.

With great consideration etc.[67]

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, January 29, 1799.

Dear Sir: When I wrote to you a few days ago for Blue grass-seed, and if that could not be had, then white clover seed in equal quantity; I expected to have finished a piece of ground sufficiently large to receive it. dispairing of this *now* and keeping seed over the year is not a good practice. I request, if you have not *already* purchased a bushel of the one, or the other, as then mentioned, that the quantity may not exceed [25 lbs.][68] of which ever of the kind that is sent. If it be purchased, however I am ready to receive the whole quantity.

Conceiving I must now be in your debt, if you will transmit the a/c, I will pay the balance as soon as known. With esteem etc.

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, January 30, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 28th. instant, enclosing Deeds for my Lots in the Federal City, and Messrs. Blagden and Lenthal's

[66] Capt. Thomas Greene (Green). He was honorably discharged in June, 1800.
[67] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.
[68] Blank in the press copy. The "25 lbs." is supplied from the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

estimate and drawing of the Windows, dressed in the manner proposed, came to my hands yesterday.

The drawing sent, gives a much handsomer appearance to the Windows than the original design did; and I am more disposed to encounter the difference of expence, than to lessen the exterior shew of the building, and therefore consent to the proposed alteration. At the foot of the estimate sent me (relatively to the Windows) is an application for 152, two inch sash pullies (brass wheels in iron frames) and two groce of 7/8th. Inch Screws. Be so good as to direct Mr. Blagden to purchase these articles on the best terms, and of such sorts as will suit him. And also to employ a Painter to prime the Sashes and Doors, although I know it will cost me five times as much as I could do it for myself. The job is too small to send a Person from hence for that purpose only.

As a Pump will, ultimately, be necessary for the Well, it may as well be fixed there *now* as hereafter, remembering in the construction thereof, that it be calculated to serve both houses.

I do not clearly comprehend how it should come to pass, that the Specification of the Work, should be at variance with the Plan of the Buildings. I had always conceived that when a Plan was exhibited and agreed to, that it gave the precise dimensions, and that the only use of the former was to ascertain the cost, and to explain the manner, in which the work was to be executed. Professing myself, however, to be a Novice in these matters, I shall readily conform to whatever you shall think right; and so I will do if any thing else of a similar nature should occur, in prosecuting the Work.

If a change in the Windows, should affect the size of the glass, I ought to be informed of it in time; indeed without delay; that no error may be committed in providing the latter.

Is my Deed for the Lot on which I am building, yet in the City Office, or have I mislaid it? I do not find it among the others. Complimts. and best wishes. etc.[69]

To SAMUEL WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, January 31, 1799.

Dear Sir: Into what channel you put your letter of the 7th of November[70] is not for me to say but this I can add that it never came to my hands until the 13th instant: When if you had put it into any Post Office it would have been received at this place in 3 or 4 days and whilst I was in Phila in 3 or 4 days more.

It is of little avail to investigate *now* what has produced the difficulties and distresses into which your fathers affairs and your own have gone; things passed may be regretted but can never be recalled.

At the time I wrote to your Mother[71] I had as I thought a moral certainty of receiving several thousand dollars for Lands which I had sold West of the Allegany Mountains and although I had urgent call for the money myself I had resolved that those evils which she seemed to apprehend should not come upon her if a $1000 would prevent it; but so far from receiving several thousand dollars as I expected I have not received one on the account of land sold. Yet notwithstanding this had she drawn as she was authorized to do, I would, rather than have been worse than I had promised to be, have borrowed the money at the Bank of Alexandria at the ruinous interest at which it is loaned.

[69] From the original in the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[70] Not now found in the *Washington Papers*.

[71] Mildred Thornton, wife of Charles Washington. No copy of this letter is now found in the *Washington Papers*. (*Cf.* Washington's letter to Samuel Washington, July 12, 1797, vol. 35, *ante*.)

But as the application for the money for the uses I had intended it will not answer the end I proposed and as I have no other means at present to obtain it but from the Banks my offer of course ceases.

But if contrary to my expectation (and I own I have none) I should receive payment for my land, which ought to have been made in June last and other in Dec I will let you have from one to three thousand dollars according to the sum I shall receive myself, but I must add that from present appearances little dependence can be placed on it. From your affectionate Uncle.[72]

To GOVERNOR JOHN SEVIER

Mount Vernon, January 31, 1799.

Sir: In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 25th of December,[73] I must observe, that as the law for raising a provisional Army was not acted upon during the recess of Congress, I presume, from its term, that it becomes void of course.[74] And whether or not a similar law will be passed in the present Session is very problematical.

I have reason to believe that the President has already made his selection to fill the Offices which had become vacant in the Additional Army.

I am very happy to hear that a military Ardour prevails in the State over which you preside, and I trust it will be directed to the support of the true interest of our common Country if it should ever be called into Action. With due consideration etc.[75]

[72] From a recent copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

[73] In the *Washington Papers*.

[74] Sevier stated that he wished employment in the Army, and implied that he did not then know that he had been nominated a brigadier general by President Adams, and confirmed by the Senate on July 19, 1798.

[75] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 27th. Ulto. was received last Night. As the whole quantity of Blue-grass seed was purchased before my last letter to you got to hand, it may be sent on without diminution.

Let it be accompanied, if to be had fresh and good, with twelve pounds of White clover seed; and the like quantity of Lucern. You will remark how pointed I am with respect to the goodness and quality of the seeds I buy; the reason is, that no imposition upon a Farmer is felt so sorely as that of foul, and defective seeds; because it deranges a whole system, besides occasioning the loss of a year in his plans.

If Captn. Ellwood would heave to when off my house; or send a Boat a shore, which would be more certain, I would send off my Boat wch. would bring the Book cases without delay. I am etc. [H. S. P.]

*To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: The letter herewith enclosed from Mr. Joel Barlow (though of old date)[76] came to my hands only yesterday.

I have conceived it to be my duty to transmit it to you without delay; and without a comment; except that it must have been written with a very good, or a very bad design; which of the two, you can judge better than I. For, from the known abilities of that Gentleman, such a letter could not be the result of ignorance *in him,* nor, from the implications which are to

[76] A certified copy of Barlow's letter (Oct. 2, 1798), by Lear, is in the *Washington Papers.* It is printed by Sparks in his *Writings of Washington,* vol. 11, p. 560.

be found in it, has it been written without the *privity* of the French Directory.

It is incumbent on me to add, that, I have not been in the habit of corresponding with Mr. Barlow. The letter now forwarded, is the first I ever received *from him,*[77] and *to him,* I have never written one.

If then, you should be of opinion that his is calculated to bring on Negociation upon open, fair and honorable ground and merits a reply,[78] and will instruct me as to the tenor of it; I shall, with pleasure and alacrity obey your Orders; more especially if there is reason to believe that it would become a mean, however small, of restoring Peace and tranquillity to the United States upon just, honorable and dignified terms: which I am persuaded is the ardent desire of all the friends of this rising Empire. With great consideration and respect etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, February 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: The extract which follows, is from Mr. Thomas Peter, who married Patsey[79] Custis.

I am applied to by my brother[80] to address and solicit you for an appointment in the Army. He would prefer being in the Cavalry if there are any vacancys, if not, in the Infantry. He appears to be fond of a Soldiers life and from his abilities and disposition, I should suppose he might make a useful man.

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[77] A letter from Barlow introducing a Marquis de Marnasia, and dated Apr. 24, 1790, is, however, in the *Washington Papers.* (Also, see Washington's letter to Marquis de Lafayette, May 28, 1788, *ante* (vol. 30), introducing Barlow. There are not, however, any letters *to* Barlow found in the *Washington Papers.*)

[78] In his answer (February 19) Adams stated: "The wretch [Barlow] has destroyed his own character to such a degree, that I think it would be derogatory to yours to give any answer at all to his letter. Tom Paine is not a more worthless fellow." From the *Works of John Adams* (Boston: 1853), vol. 8, p. 624.

[79] Martha.

[80] George Peter. He was appointed second lieutenant in the Ninth Infantry, July 12, 1799 and honorably discharged in June, 1800.

The young gentleman in whose behalf this application is made is between 18 and twenty years of age; likely, well grown and of good behaviour. He is the Son of Mr. Robert Peter of George Town, whom probably you know, and that all the family of them are warm Federalists. I am etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, February 4, 1799.

Dear Sir: Presly Thornton,[81] who is appointed a Captain in one of the Virginia Regiments, and in the list of Officers handed to you, is placed the first Captain in Colo. Bentley's[82] Regiment, and designated of Northumberland, informs me there has been a mistake in your office with respect to him; as a Relation of his, bearing the same name, and living in Caroline County, is understood by you to be the person intended. At the time of making the selection, and until informed of it by the Captn Thornton intended to be nominated, I did not know there was another of the same name existing. The person in my list is the son of Colo. Presly Thornton late of Northumberland County in Virginia. Since his nomination he has taken up his residence in the City of Washington, and he informs me that he will accept his appointment. The gentleman whom he says is understood at the War Office to be the person intended, is the son of Colo Anthony Thornton late of Caroline County. I pray you to have this mistake corrected without delay.

Mr. Greene of Spotsylvania who had John instead of Thomas prefixed to his name, called upon me yesterday on his way to

[81] Presley Peter Thornton. He was appointed captain in the Eighth Infantry in January, 1799, and honorably discharged in June, 1800. The Eighth Infantry was commanded by Lieut. Col. Thomas Parker.

[82] Lieut. Col. William Bentley. He commanded the Seventh Infantry.

Philad. where he was going to have the error rectified; but as I informed him that I had written to you on the subject, and that his presence was not necessary to identify the person, he gave up his journey. With due consideration etc.[83]

*To SIR UVEDALE PRICE[84]

Mount Vernon (in Virginia), February 5, 1799.

Sir: At the sametime that I pray you to accept my thanks for your polite, and obliging favour of the 31st of March in the past year, it becomes necessary that I should apologize for what, otherwise, might carry with it the appearance of inattention to your kindness, in sending me your Essay on the "Picturesque."

This Work, Sir, did not reach my hands until within a few days; which will account for my silence 'till now.

The subject is curious, and I persuade myself I shall read the two Volumes with pleasure and edification in my first leisure moments. In the meantime I have the honor etc.

*To WILLIAM B. HARRISON

Mount Vernon, February 6, 1799.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 24th. Ulto., and thank you for your kind assurance of suffering no tenant to remain on your land (near my Mill) who is a nuisance to me.

But it was from a thorough conviction in my mind that no person, or persons, who meant to get a livelihood by dint of labour. In short who did not depend more upon slight of hand, and unwarrantable shifts than labour, for a support, who would live on it in the exhausted state in which it is, that induced me to propose becoming your tenant, for the whole tract.

[83] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.
[84] Of Foxley, Herefordshire, England.

To this application of mine, your letter gives no answer; which is the cause of my giving you the trouble of the second Letter; forasmuch, if you are inclined to lease the Land to me for a term of years (and I could not take it on a short one, for the reasons mentioned in my last) I may know on what conditions; and if agreeable, be making my arrangements accordingly for the next year.

You will be able to judge, without any observations of mine, whether it will not be for your interest, and the advantage of the Land, that the whole should be in the hands of one person who will pay the rent regularly as it becomes due, without trouble; and who, by proper inclosures (the fencing of which I should be obliged to do with timber from my own land) wd. be improving, instead of rendering it less and less valuable every year, leaving it totally divested of even firewood, or any thing to support it, in the manner, and under the circumstances it now is, and is going on. I say your own good sense will enable you to judge of these matters as well as I can. All I request is, to be informed, whether you will lease the land to me, or not; and in the former case, on what terms; being certain that my enclosures will forever be subject to depredations while the tenements are in the hands of persons who cannot support their families by fair and honest labour, without being in a starving condition great part of the year.

With respect to John Javins I have nothing particular to charge him with; nor do I know any thing with which to impeach his honesty. Nor am I able to fix by legal proof anything against the others; but certain it is the best fences I can make are no proof against their hogs &ca.; and my meadows and grain are continually destroyed by their Stocks. And it is not less certain that my Stock (of Hogs and Sheep in particular) are constantly diminishing and while one of the Pools has no

visible way of raising them, sells more things than any person of his condition in the County. In a word, I have lately been told that he keeps a tipling house which is a receptacle for such articles as Negros can steal from their Owners. I am etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, February 6, 1799.

Dear Sir: Enclosed are sundry letters which have come to my hands, requesting Appointments in the Army of the United States.[85]

You will observe that all these letters, excepting one, are from foreigners; and as I presume it is a principle pretty well established, that it would be improper to admit persons of this description into our Army, unless it is a few Characters well skilled as Engineers or Artilleriests, I have sent those to your office that may go into the proper channel for applications, and not rest in my hands.

The name of John Cooper, the writer of one of the enclosed letters, was not among those handed in to me from your office. You will see what he says on the subject of an appointt. and will know whether the recommendations he mentions have been sent to you, and how far he may have a chance for an appointt. from any vacancy, if he shd. be found deserving. With due consideration etc.[86]

*To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Mount Vernon, February 6, 1799.

My dear Sir: By the Ship Nancy from London, just arrived at Alexandria; I have received four copies of the Prints of the

[85] A list of the letters sent follows this draft in the *Washington Papers*.
[86] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

Deaths of Montgomery and Warren (the number of setts I presume I subscribed for)[87] sent me by your Brother.[88]

It is my wish to make him a remittance agreeably to the terms of the Subscription; but having taken no copy of it, and not being able to recollect what is to pay, must be my apology for troubling you with this letter: presuming that the original Paper or a copy thereof, might have been left with you; and moreover, that you may be empowered to receive from the Subscribers in the *United States,* the amount of their subscriptions, in which case, upon receiving the advice, I shall, instead of making the remittance of mine to London, transmit it to you.

Whether any thing was to have been paid in advance, and whether in that case I paid mine, is more than I can decide without a resort (for the latter) to my Papers from Philadelphia, which are *yet* to be unpacked, and arranged.[89]

By a Paper accompanying the Prints of Montgomery and Warren, the other part of the original design is suspended, on account of the peculiarity of the times.

As I shall not write to Mr. Trumbull until I hear from you, the sooner you can make it convenient to give me the information herein required, the more agreeable it will be.

I enquire frequently after you, and with pleasure hear always that you enjoy good health. Mrs. Washington who is as well as usual, and Nelly Custis who on my birthday (the 22d. instant) will change her name for that of Lewis, a Nephew of mine, and brother to those who lived with me in New York and Philadelphia, unite in best wishes and respectful compliments to Mrs. Trumbull and yourself, with My dear Sir etc.

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[87] A set of these prints (the one of the death of Warren is better known as the Battle of Bunker Hill), the property of Walter G. Peter, of Washington, D. C., is in the Washington Collection in the National Museum. One set was hung in the "new room" (Banquet Hall) and one set in the central hall of Mount Vernon.

[88] John Trumbull.

[89] Washington had already paid half of the subscription (3 guineas) for two sets of the prints on Apr. 17, 1790 (*Cf.* Washington's letter to Joseph Anthony, Sept. 30, 1799, *post.*)

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, February 10, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 24th of the last, and 2d of the present month,[90] have been duly received; for which, and their enclosures, I thank you.

I am not surprised that some Members of the Ho. of Representatives should dis-relish your Report. It contains remarks, and speaks truths which they are desirous should be unknown to the People. I wish the parts which were left out, had been retained. The crisis, in my opinion, calls loudly for plain dealing; that the Citizens at large may be well informed, and decide, with respect to public measures, upon a thorough knowledge of facts. *Concealment* is a species of mis-information; and misrepresentation and false alarms found the ground work of opposition. The plan of wch. is, to keep the People as much as possible in ignorance and terror; for it is believed by themselves, that a perfect understanding of our *real* situation, in regard to our foreign relations would be a death blow to their consequence and struggles; and for that reason, have always something *on foot* to disquiet the public mind.

[90] Pickering has stated: "I . . . inclose copies of the President's communications to Congress on the 18th and 21st of January, concerning French affairs. In my report, I had noticed (in as gentle terms as possible) Mr. Gerry's conduct, as wrong in principle, and in many particulars very reprehensible: but these (contrary to my wishes) were omitted. There was one omission which I deemed important to retain, as it was the text of my observations on Mr. Gerry's strange opinion of the sincerity of Talleyrand in his *talks* of negotiation prior to the arrival of the Envoys dispatches in Europe. For your own eye, I have inserted in the copy of my report now inclosed, the passages referred to, as I had written them. It was this absurd but mischievous opinion which suggested to me the necessity of making a report on those communications: I call it mischievous, because many will read and respect that opinion without examining and discovering that it is without foundation. Mr. Gerry's whole letter is calculated to apologize for his improper conduct: so improper as to be inexcusable; and of this he is apparently conscious; and hence his laboured but weak attempt to justify it." A photostat of the original, through the courtesy of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City, is in the *Washington Papers*.

I am sorry to hear that Mr. Gerry is pursuing a mischevous path. That he was led astray by his own vanity and self importance and was the dupe of *Diplomatic Skill,* I never had a doubt; but these doubts were accompanied by feint hopes (feint indeed they were) that he possessed candour, fortitude and manliness enough to have come forward with an open declaration that, he had been practised upon, and was deceiv'd. But Mr. Gerry's mind is not enlarged enough for such conduct as this; especially, assailed as I presume it was on his arrival, by those whose labours are unceasing, to inculcate their doctrines of hostility against the proceedings of their own government.

The Session of Congress is drawing fast to a close; what traits it will leave behind of strong, and energetic measures, remains to be seen: Such I hope as will shew that, we are ready at all times to negociate upon, fair and honorable terms, but never to be bullied or duped. With very great esteem etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, February 10, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 1st. instant is received. Whatever appearance, or shape, the Uniform intended for me, may take, by your direction, will be entirely agreeable to my taste. It being the commencement of a distinguishing dress for the Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States (whomsoever he may be) and probably will be a permanent one, my wish (although as it respects myself personally I have no choice) is, that it may be correctly executed; for which reason I thought it more aligable, in the *first* instance, that the

directions concerning it should proceed from the Department of War, than from myself.

I hope it will be made and sent to me by the time mentioned in my last; accompanied with the Cockades, and Stars for the Epaulets; without the whole of which, the Dress will not comport with the order; of course must be incomplete.

If my Nephew Mr Bushrod Washington should not have left Philadelphia before the above articles are ready, and is certain of being here by the 22d. instant, it would afford a good and safe opportunity for the conveyance of them to me; but if he has doubts on this head, I would not hazard the receipt of them by him, by that time; as you will perceive by the enclosed letter to Mr. McAlpin left open for your perusal; and with an excuse for troubling you with these small matters, at a time when I presume you are pressed by important ones, I am With esteem etc.[91]

*To JAMES McALPIN

Mount Vernon, February 10, 1799.

Sir: Having requested in a former letter, that you would make me a Uniform suit of cloaths by such directions as the Secretary of War would give; of such kinds of cloth as I mentioned to you in that letter; and moreover, that they might be with me by the 22d. of the present month; I hope my desire in all these particulars will be complied with.

If Mr. Washington, one of the Judges, has not left Philadelphia before you receive this letter, and is certain of doing it, so as to be here (where he means to call on his return) by the time above mentioned, he wd. afford a good, and safe opportunity by whom to send them.

[91] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

Let them be packed in a Portmanteau to be made for that, and occasional uses thereafter, of very stiff and thick leather of the following size, viz, two feet in length and two feet nine inches round, with a flap for the convenience of brushes, blacking &ca., and an iron bar (running through staples) and a good lock, for its security. A workman in that line, will be at no loss in discovering what kind of a Portmanteau it is I want, from what is here said.

Transmit your account of the cost of all the articles required. and the amount shall be remitted to you, by Sir Your etc.[92]

*To JAMES LLOYD[93]

Mount Vernon, February 11, 1799.

Sir: Your favor of the 28th. Ulto. enclosing Mr. Gerry's correspondence with M. Talleyrand, came safe; but not so soon after its date as might have been expected; or an earlier acknowledgment thereof would have been returned. For your kind, and polite attention to me in sending me this curious interchange, with the Secretary of State's Report thereon, I pray you to accept my best thanks.

It is not surprising that the latter should not prove agreeable to the taste of some Gentlemen in the Ho. of R—p—s. It served to place the views and objects of the Fr: Government in too conspicuous a light to be mistaken; and of course did not accord with their purposes. I wish, however, they were in every man's hand, for I am persuaded the great mass of our Citizens require only to understand matters rightly, to form right decisions; whilst the business of some among us seems to be, to

[92] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

[93] Senator from Maryland.

pervert, and lead their judgments astray by false alarms, and a misrepresentation of facts.

I recollect well, having received a letter from you sometime in July last on the Subject of Kentucky politics; but as it was in answer to my queries, and knowing that you wd. have left Philadelphia, or in other words that the Session of Congress was about to close, and that an acknowledgment of it was not likely to reach that City 'ere this would happen, I did not reply to it. This is offered as my apology for not writing to you on that Session. With esteem etc.

*To JOHN TAYLOE

Mount Vernon, February 12, 1799.

Dear Sir: By your Servant, I have this moment (on my return from Alexandria) been favoured with your two letters of the 10th. instant.

For the compliment you have been pleased to pay me, in asking my opinion of the eligibility of accepting your late appointment in the Army of the United States, I pray you to accept my thanks.

However desirous I might have been of seeing you engaged in that line, candour requires I should declare, that under your statement of the circumstances of the case, I am inclined to believe that your Services in the civil line, in the present crisis of our affairs, and the temper in which *this State* in particular, appears to be (if it be fair to form a judgment from the Acts of its Legislature) would be more important: The first is contingent, of course may, or may not be called for, according to our doings in the latter. The second *is in existence,* and requires the active (and I will venture to add) the immediate, and unremitting exertions of the friends of Order and good

government; to prevent the evils which it is but too apparent another description of men, among us, are endeavouring to involve the United States.

No evil, that I perceive, can result at this State of the Recruiting Service, from the postponesment of a final decision, respecting your appointment to a Majority in the Regiment of light Dragoons;[94] and as you have it in contemplation (as appears by your letter to the Secretary of War) to visit Philadelphia shortly, I will suspend a further expression of my sentiments on this subject until I have the pleasure of seeing you at this place. With best respects to Mrs. Tayloe, in which Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis unite I am etc.

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, February 14, 1799.

My dear Sir: Mr. H: Washington[95] affords me a very good opportunity to inform you, that if your Crop enables you to supply me with a hundred Barrels of Corn over and above the quantity Contracted for, I shall be willing to take it on the terms I do the Five hundred Barrels; and that I shall be willing to receive a part of the whole at any time you may find it convenient to forward it, as the danger of Frost, and shutting up my Creek, I hope is passed for this Season.

I am sorry to hear of your confinement, and trust if it is not quite at an end, that it cannot be far from it.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in best wishes for you, and I am etc.[96]

[94] Tayloe declined his commission as second major of Light Dragoons.

[95] Son of John Washington, of King George County, Va.

[96] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, February 15, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the [8th instt.] conveys very pleasing information [and I] feel obliged by the communicati[on.]

Although you did not [give your] letter the stamp of *privacy,* I [did not think] myself at liberty to mention [the purport] of it to some good Federal char[acters who] were dining with me at the [time I receiv-]ed it; and who would have tho[ught it] the best Desert I could have offere[d.][97]

Hence forward, I will consi[der] your letters to me, in three distinct points of view; and I mention it *now,* that I may commit no error hereafter.

First, such communications as you may conceive proper to make to me, *alone,* and mark *confidential,* shall go no farther; those marked *private,* I may, occasionally impart their contents to well disposed characters; and those without [either will leave] me unrestrained. W[ith greatest] esteem etc.[98]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, February 15, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 12th. instant, with Mr Blagdens estimate of the Glass required for my Houses in the Federal City, and shall take measures for providing it in time.

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[97] Pickering's letter of February 8 informed of the good prospects of commercial treaties with Russia, with the Ottoman Porte and Great Britain. He stated that Pitt had made a proposition to Rufus King "which implies an opinion, that in certain articles (sugar & coffee in particular) Great Britain and the U. States may regulate the commerce of Europe . . . the idea presented by Mr. Pitt, whether it shall ever become a reality or not, demonstrates our commercial and even our political importance." This letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[98] The press copy is badly mutilated. The words in brackets are supplied, at a venure, and also from Ford's *Writings,* where an extract is printed as a footnote.

Presuming that Mr. Blagden is apprised of there being a Check on the Bank of Alexandria, subject to his call, the neglect is his, if he does not do it. He shall not *want* the means necessary to push on my buildings on the one hand, and on the other, I hope his demands will not be *greater* than those wants.

I have not, as yet, had recourse to either Bank for a loan, but have no doubt of this being the case soon; when I shall not forget what you have said respecting the proper mode to obtain it.

For your good wishes I thank you, and with Compliments remain, etc.

*To JAMES WELCH

Mount Vernon, February 15, 1799.

Sir: The first of January is past, and February half gone, without my receiving any Money from you; seeing you; or even hearing any thing from you, on this Subject.

I am in real want of it, and depended upon your repeated assurances of punctual payment at the time the first Rent became due. I hope I shall not have occasion to remind you of this matter again. I am etc.

*To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, February 17, 1799.

Mr. Anderson: I am not certain that I perfectly understood (when I was speaking to you on the subject the other day) what parts of the Banks in Union Farm Meadow, were sowed with Clover; and therefore make the enquiry now; first, because I am strongly impressed with an idea that that part which is in Wheat, on the North side of the Branch from the Barn lane downwards (especially as far as the rough plowed ground)

would bring tolerable good Clover. and secondly, because no better time, or finer opportunity can possibly offer than the present Snow, for sowing it, if you have Seed ready, or can get that which is good in Alexandria.

I do not, by any means, expect that alone, it would yield a profitable Crop of Clover; but I am persuaded, mixed with Timothy, it would more than compensate for the cost of the Seed; and therefore, I am willing to encounter the expence; provided it can be sowed immediately, before the Snow dissolves, or is blown off the ground which is to receive it by the Winds.

If you have seed of your own ready, it would be very desirable to sow it tomorrow. If not, and good Seed is to be bought in Alexandria I would send up for it in order that it might be sown as soon afterwards as possible.

As the ground is already sown with Timothy, on both banks of the large Meadow, and intended to lye to grass after the grain comes off; the worst that can happen if Clover does not succeed, is the loss of the Seed. I am etc.

PS. I do not mean by sowing these Banks, to omit sowing any other grounds which were allotted for Clover. The Seeds of which if not to be had of a good quality can always (at this Season) be imported from Philaa.[99]

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, February 18, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter and a/c current, with the Bills enclosed, have been duly received; and under cover of this letter I send you One hundred Dollars to be placed to my Credit.

[99] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

Ellwood has not yet called upon me, nor is he arrived at Alexandria that I have heard of.

I thank you for the information respecting the price of Flour; and shall be obliged by your mentioning of it occasionally; especially if the event you alluded to should cause a rise, or depression according to the issue. I am etc.

PS. Remember the Lucerne and White Clover Seeds, written for in my last letter. [H.S.P.]

*To GEORGE DENEALE[1]

Mount Vernon, February 19, 1799.

Sir: You will please to grant a license for the Marriage of Eleanor Parke Custis with Lawrence Lewis, and this shall be your Authority for so doing from Sir Yr. etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, February 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: In a letter lately received from you, you have given me reason to believe that it would not be disagreeable to Mr. Harper[2] (in case the exigencies of this Country should call me to the Field) to compose part of my Military Sute, as an Aid de Camp. To have a person therein, of his abilities, would

[1] Clerk of Fairfax County, Va.

Washington's "Diary" for February 22 records: "Morning raining. Mer at 30. Wind a little more to the Northward. Afterwards very strong from the No. Wt. and turning clear and cold. The Revd. Mr. Davis and Mr. Geo. Calvert came to dinner and Miss Custis was married abt. Candle light to Mr. Lawe. Lewis."

On February 23 Washington wrote: "General and Mrs. Washington present their Compliments to Mr. Andw. Ramsay, Mrs. Ramsay and Mr. Willm. Ramsay and request the favour of their Company to dine on Tuesday next, with the couple Newly Married" A photograph of this letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[2] Robert Goodloe Harper, a Representative from South Carolina.

be as pleasing as it might be advantages [*sic*]; but you have been early apprised of my determination to remain perfectly disengaged to any of my *established* Aids, until the period shall have arrived when a choice must be made; in the selection of which, a variety of considerations (unnecessary to enumerate to you) must combine in fixing it.

It is not only possible, but highly probable also, that in such a Crisis as wou'd require my attendance in the Field, his services in the Legislature might be of infinite more importance than he could render in the Military line; and it is a maxim with me, that in times of imminent danger to a Country, every true Patriot should occupy the Post in which he can render them the most effectually. Having expressed these sentiments, the matter must rest here.

I have, it is true, given young Carroll of Carrollton, expectation of becoming a Volunteer Aid of mine, if I should be called to the Field. But this will give him neither Rank, nor Pay, in the line of the Army. The latter he stood in no need of, and the former as he could not contemplate a Military life as a profession, would have been of little importance to him.

I thank you for the Eagles, and wish they had been accompanied with the Stars. When the cost of both are known, I will remit, or direct the amount to be paid to you in Philadelphia. With very great esteem etc.

*To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, February 25, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your private letter of the 16th. instant came duly to hand, and safe. And I wish you at all times, and upon

all occasions, to communicate interesting occurrences with your opinions thereon (in the manner you have designated) with the utmost unreservedness, to me.

If the augmented force was not intended as an interroram measure, the delay in Recruiting it, is unaccountable; and baffles all conjecture on reasonable grounds. The zeal and enthusiasm which were excited by the Publication of the Dispatches from our Commissioners at Paris (which gave birth to the Law authorising the raising of twelve Regiments &ca) are evaporated. It is now no more. And if this dull season, when men are idle from want of employment, and from that cause might be induced to enlist, is suffered to pass away also, we shall, by and by, when the business of Agriculture and other avocations call for the labour of them, set out as a forlorn hope, to execute this business.[3]

Had the formation of the Army followed closely the passage of this Act; and Recruiting Orders had tread on the heels of that; the Men which might have been raised at that time, would in point of numbers have been equal to any in the world; inasmuch as the most reputable yeomanry of the Country were ready to have stepped forward with alacrity. *Now,* the measure is not only viewed with indifference, but deemed unnecessary by that class of People, whose attentions being turned to other matters, the Officers who in August and September could, with ease, have Enlisted whole Companies of them, will find it difficult to Recruit any; and if this idle and dissipated Season is spent in inactivity, none but the riff-raff of the Country, and the Scape gallowses of the large Cities will be to be had.

[3]Hamilton's letter to Washington (February 15) states: "The commencement of the business of recruiting, however, is still postponed; for the reason, as assigned by the Secretary [of War], that a supply of cloathing is not yet ready." Hamilton's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

Far removed from the Scene, I might ascribe these delays to wrong causes, and therefore will hazard no opinion respecting them; but I have no hesitation in pronouncing that, unless a material change takes place, our Military Theatre affords but a gloomy prospect to those who are to perform the principal parts in the Drama. Sincerely and Affectionately etc.[4]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, February 25, 1799.

Sir: I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 15th instant.

When the disposition was contemplated for assigning to Major General Pinckney and to yourself your respective districts of superintendence, I was of Opinion (as you will see by the enclosed copy of a letter which I wrote to the Secretary of War on my way from Philadelphia to this place) that the *whole* of General Wilkinson's Brigade should be considered as under your immediate direction; because, if a part of it which is, or may be stationed within States of Kentuckey and Tennessee, should be under the Superintendence of General Pinckney, and the other part under your's, it might occasion great inconvenience, and perhaps confusion, for General Wilkinson to have to communicate sometimes with one of the Major Generals and sometimes with the other. This, I conceive, will still be the case, if the disposition, which [you][5] mention to have been communicated by the Secretary of War, should continue. I am therefore yet decidedly of opinion, that the

[4] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. The press copy, in the *Washington Papers*, was corrected by Washington after this letter was sent. It varies in minor verbal details.

[5] Supplied from the draft in the *Washington Papers*.

whole of General Wilkinsons Brigade should be under your superintendence.

If it be determined to pursue the recruiting business at all, I regret extremely that there should have been so much delay in it; for the favourable season is passing off every day, and when the Spring opens, great numbers of those who would readily enlist now, will be then engaged in other avocations, and we shall lose the precious moment.

I shall hope to be regularly advised of every occurrence which takes place in your military Arrangemts. that you may think essential to communicate. With very great regard etc.

P. S. I enclose herewith Returns of Troops, Stores &c. at Niagara, which have been forwarded to me by Major Rivardi, and shall, in acknowledging the receipt of them, desire that the Returns in future may pass through you to the War Office.[6]

*To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, February 26, 1799.

My dear Sir: I received your letter of the 18th instant yesterday. You refer me to enclosed letters for information on the subject therein mentioned. One letter only came, and that under a Seal to General Lee, which I shall forward, unopened, tomorrow by my Nephew Mr. Bushrod Washington, who is a neighbour of his.

Having written to you yesterday both an Official, and private letter, I have only to add in this, that with sincere esteem and Affectionate regard etc.[7]

[6] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[7] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To JAMES EWING

Mount Vernon, February 26, 1799.

Sir: The Columbian Alphabet which you were so polite as to send me, came safe, and for which I pray you to accept my thanks. It is curious, and if it could be introduced, might be useful for the purposes proposed; but it will be a work of time, it is to be feared, before it will be adopted, generally, I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To REVEREND JEDIDIAH MORSE

Mount Vernon, February 28, 1799.

Revd. Sir: The letter with which you were pleased to favour me, dated the first instant, accompanying your thanksgiving Sermon came duly to hand.

For the latter I pray you to accept my thanks. I have read it, and the Appendix with pleasure; and wish the latter at least, could meet a more general circulation than it probably will have, for it contains important information; as little known out of a small circle as the dissimination of it would be useful, if spread through the Community. With great respect etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM HEATH

Mount Vernon, March 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 11th. Ulto.[8] from Roxbury, accompanying your Memoirs of the American War; which I accept, and dare say beforehand shall read, with pleasure, as soon as the bustle in which we now are engaged at the Wedding of our Granddaughter Miss Custis, is over.

[8] In the *Washington Papers.*

If in doing it, occasion should be found to make any observations thereon, I shall avail myself of the liberty you allow me, to express my sentiments with the utmost candour and freedom. In the meanwhile, I pray you to accept my best thanks for the testimony of your friendship and politeness in sending me the work so elegantly bound. Mrs. Washington is thankful for your kind remembrance of her. and with great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To MAJOR JOHN JACOB ULRICH RIVARDI

Mount Vernon, March 2, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 10th of Jany, enclosing Returns from the Garrison at Niagara for the month of Decr. and since that, Returns from the same place for the Month of January, have been received. These Returns I have forwarded to Major General Hamilton, to whom you will, in future, be pleased to address all your official communications; which must go to him of course as Inspector General of the Armies of the United States.

I am happy to hear of your welfare and that harmony prevails between our Garrison and the British Posts in its vicinity.

Mrs. Washington joins in compliments and best wishes for Mrs. Rivardi with etc.[9]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Confidential)

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1799.

Dear Sir: The unexpectedness of the event, communicated in your letter of the 21st. Ulto, did, as you may suppose,

[9] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

surprise me not a little. But far, very far indeed was this surprise short of what I experienced the next day when by a very intelligent gentemn., (immediately from Philadelphia) I was informed that there had been no *direct* overture from the Government of France to that of the United States, for a Negociation.[10] On the contrary, that Mr. Talleyrand was playing the same loose, and round-about game he had attempted the year before with our Envoys; and which, as in that case, might mean any thing, or nothing, as would subserve his purposes best.

Had we approached the ante-chamber of this Gentleman when he opened the door to us, and *there* waited for a formal invitation into the Interior, the Governments would have met upon equal ground; and we might have advanced, or receded, according to circumstances, without commitment. In plainer words, had we said to Mr. Talleyrand through the channel of his communication, we still are, as we always have been, ready to settle by fair Negociation, all differences between the two Nations, upon open, just and honourable terms; and it rests with the Directory (after the indignities with which *our* attempts to affect this, have been treated, if they are equally sincere) to come forward in an unequivocal manner, and prove it by their Acts. Such conduct would have shewn a dignified

[10] The first overtures for a renewal of treaty negotiations with France, after the break in diplomatic relations caused by the X. Y. Z. insult, came from France in the form of conversations between Pichon, Secretary of the French legation at the Hague, and Vans Murray. The latter thought these overtures of little value; but in September, 1798, Murray was handed a note from Talleyrand to Pichon, dated 7th Vendemiaire (September 28), in which Talleyrand stated that Pichon was right in asserting that "whatever plenipotentiary the . . . United States might send to France to put an end to the existing differences between the two countries, would be undoubtedly received with the respect due to the representative of a free, independent, and powerful nation" (*Executive Journal of the U. S. Senate*, vol. 1, p. 313). On receipt of this assurance President Adams nominated Murray to be United States Minister Plenipotentiary to France, Feb. 18, 1799, and on February 25 nominated Oliver Ellsworth and Patrick Henry to act with Murray.

willingness on our part, to Negociate; and would have tested their sincerity, on the other. Under my present view of the subject, this would have been the course I should have pursued; keeping equally in view the horrors of War, and the dignity of the Government.

But, not being acquainted with all the information, and the motives which induced the measure, I may have taken a wrong impression, and therefore shall say nothing further on the subject, at this time. With sincere esteem &c.

*To THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have been duly honoured with your favour of the 19th. Ulto, mentioning the nomination of Mr. Murray[11] to be Minister Plenipotentiary to the French Republic.

With the writer of the letter,[12] which I did myself the honour to enclose in my last to you, I truly observed that I had never held any correspondence; and I only knew him in his public mission from this Country to the Barbary States, the functions of which he discharged at that time with ability and propriety. I have indeed, lately, heard of a letter that has been published, which he wrote to Mr. Baldwin, filled with abuse of this Government and its Administration: But I have never met with it in any of the Papers wch. I take.

As you have had more opportunities of knowing this man's character than have fallen to me, I have no doubt but you have formed a just estimate of him; and as I had no other desire than to be useful, in transmitting any sentiments you might wish to

[11] William Vans Murray. He was at the time United States Minister to Holland.
[12] Joel Barlow.

convey, I shall, impressed with your observations, take no notice of his letter.

I sincerely pray, that in the discharge of these arduous and important duties committed to you, your health may be unimpaired, and that you may long live to enjoy those blessings which must flow to our Country, if we should be so happy as to pass this critical period in an honourable and dignified manner, without being involved in the horrors and calamities of War.

Mrs. Washington and Mrs. Lewis (late Miss Custis) thank you for your kind remembrance of them, and offer their best respects to you, at the sametime that they unite with me in every good wish for the perfect restoration of health to Mrs. Adams. With sentiments of very great respect etc.

*To WILLIAM BOOKER

Mount Vernon, March 3, 1799.

Sir: Mr. Anderson has shewn me your letter of the 23d. Ultimo, to him, with an estimate of the expence of building horse Mills, differently constructed. For the trouble you have taken in this business, I feel myself very much obliged.

A Mill grinding from 15 to 20 bushls. a day, with two horses, would nearly, if not entirely answer all my purposes; with the occasional aid of the Water Mills which in the driest Seasons, grinds a little.

For this reason I prefer greatly your last plan, namely, fixing a Mill to one of the threshing Machines now erected; if you are perfectly satisfied in your own mind that it will grind according to your estimate, even the smallest quantity, that is 15 bushls. a day; and I prefer moreover annexing it to the Ma-

chine at Union, as most central to the Farms, and more convenient on other Accounts.

Having thus determined, I am now to request, that you will purchase the last pair of Cologn Stones (mentioned in your letter) and, if anything else can be much better prepared at Richmond than here, to provide and send the whole round by the first conveyance: and be ready to come up yourself to put the whole together, so soon as you shall be advised of their arrival.

Being acquainted with the abilities of my tradesmen in their different lines, you know, of course, what they are capable of executing; and as materials of all sorts (with a little previous notice) can be provided, and in the forwardness you may direct, on the spot, I am persuaded you will run me to no other expence to obtain them from Richmond than shall, in your judgment, be essential. You will please to advise me of the time I may expect you, and them. With esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To JUDGE ALEXANDER ADDISON

Mount Vernon, March 4, 1799.

Sir: Your favour of the 31st of Jany, enclosing your second charge to the Grand Juries of the County Courts of the fifth Circuit of the State of Pennsylvania, at the last Decr. Sessions, has been duly received; and for the Enclosure I thank you.

I wish, sincerely, that your good example, in endeavouring to bring the People of these United States more acquainted with the Laws and principles of their Government, was followed. They only require a proper understanding of these, to judge rightly on all great National questions; but unfortunately, infinite more pains is taken to blind them by one

discription of men, than there is to open their eyes by the other; which, in my opinion, is the sourse of most of the evils we labour under.

I would pray you, my good Sir, to use your endeavours, that I may be paid the balance of the last Instalment due to me from the Estate of the deceased Colo. Ritchie; and that no failure may happen in complying with *that* which will be due the first of June next ensuing.

I can assure you, most truly, that I am in *real* want of these payments; the most conclusive evidence I can give you of which, is, that I am driven to the necessity of borrowing at the Banks, by renewed Notes every Sixty days; which, I am sure you will allow is a ruinous mode of obtaining money when I can receive common interest only for that out of which I am kept. With very great esteem etc.

To JOHN MOODY[13]

Mount Vernon, March 4, 1799.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 23d Ulto. enclosing one addressed to the Secretary of War, which has been forwarded to that Officer according to your desire.

The usual course of applications for Military appointments is to the Secretary of War, who lays the same before the President of the United States, and your application, through that channel, will undoubtedly meet the attention which it may merit. I am etc.[14]

[13] Of Richmond, Va.

[14] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

On March 4 Washington wrote a brief note to the Secretary of War, thanking him for his "kind attention to the business which I desired McAlpin to execute for me." Lear's draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

*LIST OF HOUSES AT MOUNT VERNON AS TAKEN BY MR. DULAN (ONE OF THE ASSESSORS) THE 9TH INSTANT ON THE PREMISES

Mount Vernon, March 13, 1799.

Dwelling House 96 feet by 32, of Wood; 2 Stories high

No. of Windows	No. of Paynes in each	Total
6	18	108
6	12	72
3	12	36
8	15	120
1	62	62
2	16	32
6	18	108
9	12	108
1	10	10
2	18	36
3	12	36

Kitchen	40 by 20	
Servants Hall ø	40 .. 20	
Gardiners house	26 .. 16	
Store house	26 .. 16	
Smoke house	*16 .. 16	
Wash house	20 .. 16	
Coach house	20 .. 16	
Stable	84 .. 36	
Salt house	16 .. 16	
Spinning house	38 .. 18	
Negro Quarters, Green house	in one.... 170 .. 18	
Ice house....within Arch	12 by 12	

ø Measured since Mr. Dulan took the account.
* This building is added to the Assessors Report.

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, March 14, 1799.

Dear Sir: As the Season for transplanting Trees is passing away, and this business cannot be much longer delayed with propriety, or safety to the Plants, I embrace the going up of Colo. Lear to the City, to send you the scaley bark hiccory trees promised you sometime since. They are from the large Nut grown in Gloucester County, of this State.

I put such of the Spanish Chesnut as I could save last Autumn, in to Earth, to be planted this Spring. If they vegitate and come up, you shall partake. It is best I believe not to disturb them at this time.

Your favour of the 14th. Ulto, enclosing the quantity of Glass wanted for my houses in the City, and the Boston prices thereof, came safe; for which I thank you; and shall endeavour to be provided in time. With complimts to Mrs. Thornton, I remain etc.[15]

*To GEORGE BALL

Mount Vernon, March 17, 1799.

Sir: It is somewhat singular, that instead of receiving Three hundred and three pounds in April of the last year, as per agreement for the land I sold you (lying in Gloucester County of this State) that I should never have seen, nor heard a tittle from you, respecting this payment, at the time it became due, nor since for, near a year.

The first Instalment of the residue will become due the 10th. of next month; and I beg you to be assured that I am in real want of the money; and that it was the want of money alone, which had induced me to part with this, and other landed prop-

[15] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

erty, which I have always considered as the most secure, and ultimately the most valuable, of any in this Country.

I shall expect to see, or hear from you to good effect, by the day above mentioned. I am etc.

*To BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Mount Vernon, March 17, 1799.

My dear Sir: I have been induced (inconvenient as it is to my Finances) to build two houses in the Federal City, near the Capital, to accomodate a person who means to lay himself out for the accomodation of the Members of Congress; when that body shall have removed to the permanent Seat of the Government.

For these buildings I shall want Glass, in quantity, quality and size, as per enclosed list; and being informed that it may be had of the best kind, and cheap from the Manufactury of this Article, in or near Boston, I take the liberty of soliciting your Aid to procure it (not knowing who has the Direction of the work).

I should be glad to have it sent to me soon, as the buildings will, I expect, be run up this Spring. Let the parcels of glass be accompanied with the account of cost, and the amount shall be immediately paid. If to do this to some person in Alexandria would answer, it would be convenient for me; but if this will not suit the purposes of the Manufactory, I will devise some mode of making a remittance to Boston, otherwise than hazarding Bank Notes in a letter, that distance. With great and sincere esteem etc.

130 Panes—10 by 8 Inches
100 Ditto —12⅝ths—Square
340 Ditto —19⅛ by 12⅝ths.

*To JOSEPH ANTHONY

Mount Vernon, March 17, 1799.

Sir: I have, lately, received from John Trumbull Esqr. (now in London) four setts of the Battle of Bunkers Hill, and death of General Montgomery; for which I subscribed, and am ready to pay, if I knew who was authorised to receive what is due thereupon.

Conceiving it most likely that his brother, Governor Trumbell, was so empowered, I wrote to him on the subject, but received for answer that he was not. He added, however, that he thought it probably you might be so; being of opinion that it was not his brother's wish that the Subscribers should remit the amount of their Subscriptions to him, in London. If the Govr. is right in this conjecture, be so good as to inform me, and what I owe on this account; as I have entirely forgot the terms of the Subscription. I am etc.

*To JOHN PAGE

Mount Vernon, March 17, 1799.

Dear Sir: In April, after I had quit the Walks of Public life (1797), I agreed with one George Ball for the Land I held in Gloucester County; on account of which, he made me a small payment of £200, or thereabouts; was to have paid about three hundred more the April following; and the balle. in two annual Instalments thereafter. Since which I have never seen Mr Ball, nor have heard from him on this subject. And what is still more extraordinary, I do not know whether he removed to the Land, or where he now lives; consequently, do not know with certainty at what place to direct to him.

This, my good Sir, must be my apology for giving you the trouble of the enclosed; in order, if he lives in Gloucester (on the land) that it may be forwarded to him; if not, to be returned to, Dr Sir Yr. etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, March 17, 1799.

Dear Sir: On the 18th. Ulto, I remitted you in a letter, One hundred Dollars in Bank Notes of the United States. Having received no acknowledgment of the letter's getting to hand; and being yet without the Lucerne Seed, therein mentioned, (as well as in former letters) I am not intirely free from apprehension of a miscarriage, although I have heard of no accident to the Mail.

As the Season for sowing Lucerne Seed is just at hand, I would beg to have the quantity, mentioned in my former letters sent by the mail Stage, rather than encounter delay. In this way I frequently have small parcels sent to me. Be so good as to mention the Phila. prices of Flour; and prospect of its rising or falling. I am etc.

*To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, March 18, 1799.

Dear Sir: I recollect no business of sufficient importance to require your return hither, sooner than Doctr. Thornton conceives will allow him sufficient time to effect your cure. Were the case however otherwise, far would it be from me, to request this return before so desirable an object is accomplished. I do not therefore wish you to hurry it, on account of my business.

Charles takes a horse up for Washington, which I pray may be sent to Mr. Laws, or wherever he is.

Mrs. Washington and myself are, as you left us; and in best wishes for Doctr. Thornton's success in your case. With very great esteem, and Compliments to enquiring friends, I am etc. [H.L.]

*To JAMES McALPIN

Mount Vernon, March 18, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 15th Ulto. came duly to hand, and I feel obliged by the pains you were at to obtain gold thread for the Uniform Suit you were requested to make and forward to me. I am perfectly satisfied that nothing was left unattempted on your part to comply with my Order.

This article (gold thread) being expected in the Spring Importations you will provide what is good, and have the suit compleated (by a skilful workman) agreeably to former directions, and sent in the manner required in my last letter. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM THOMPSON

Mount Vernon, March 18, 1799.

Dear Sir: Colo. Thos. Lee (of Loudoun) is possessed, I am informed, of a tract of about 400 acres of Land within a mile of Colchester, which he is disposed to sell. Let me request the favour of you to describe it to me as accurately as you can from your *own* knowledge, or from the information of others on whose judgment you can rely.

In doing this, say what the kind and quality of the Soil is; whether level or broken; what the nature of the growth; what proportion is in wood; How timbered; what tenements are on it; the condition of them; whether much worn and gullied, or in good heart; and whether they are tenants at Will or on

leases, and what kind of leases; with the kind of improvments. How watered also.

To this catalogue of enquiries, permit me to ask, what, in your opinion, and the opinion of such as are acquainted with the value, and prices of Land in that neighbourhood, and situated as it is, it is worth in *Cash;* also on credit, and what credit.

I will offer no apology for giving you the trouble to make these enquiries, but shall thank you for answering them; as I have an object in requesting this kindness from you. With esteem, I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, March 20, 1799.

Dear Sir: I am indebted to you for two Letters: 28th of the last, and 11th of the present month. For the information given in both, particularly the latter, I feel gratified and obliged. I hope the measure communicated therein will eventuate beneficially for this Country.

I lately received the German letter; herewith forwarded to you; as I do the Box also, which accompanied it, uopened [*sic*].

The writer, as far as I have been enabled to understand the purport of the letter, seems to have been actuated by very benevolent motives. His desire, that his name may not appear, is an evidence that they were not ostentatious. For these reasons, and because Doctor Ramnitz seems to be under the impression of my being in the Administration of the Government, but above all, from an ardent wish that the Medicine might prove efficatious in that dreadful calamity with which our principal Towns have been visited,[16] I send it, and his letters to you, to be disposed of in such a manner as in your judgment is most

[16] Yellow fever.

likely to try the experiment which is suggested by the apparently, well meaning Author.

The letter enclosed, is an acknowledgment of the receipt of these things with information of the measure I have taken, consequent thereof. Let me ask you to put it under cover of your own dispatches to Berlin, when you may have occasion to write to our Minister at that Court. With sincere esteem, and Affecte regard etc.

*To DOCTOR JOHN FREDERICK RAMNITZ[17]

Mount Vernon in Virginia, March 20, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 31st of October last,[18] with a Box of Medicine, which you considered would prove efficacious in the dreadful fever with which our large Sea Port Towns have been visited, got safe to my hands; and conveys a strong and pleasing evidence of your human and benevolent intention, and wishes to afford relief to the suffering Inhabitants of them.

Having for more than two years been seated in retirement on my paternal Estate, remote from the scenes of public life, and far removed from the calamity which have pressed sorely on Philadelphia and New York, I could do no more than commiserate their situation, unable to point out a remedy for it. If your Medicine, on trial, will afford this, happy indeed will it be for those places and mankind in general, that you have discovered it; and the blessings of thousands would attend you.

Being, as I have observed above, no longer in the walks of Public life, and far removed from Philadelphia, I have sent your letter and medicine to Colo. Pickering (our Secretary of State) who resides in that City, and one in whom I can place

[17] A druggist at Spandaw, near Berlin, Germany.
[18] In the *Washington Papers.*

entire confidence, to act, as you requested I would, with the latter. concealing your name. I can do no less, however, than to offer you my thanks in behalf of all those who may receive benefit by the application; and to assure you of the sense I entertain of your benevolent intentions in forwarding of the Medicine to Sir Your etc.

To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, March 24, 1799.

Dear Sir: I received your letter of the 18th instant a day or two ago, previous to wch, I had desired Colo. Lear to remain in the City as long as he could derive benefit from your friendly prescription to his *Understanding*. It, or more properly *they*, stand so much in need of skilful assistance, that an extra derangement may take place without it.

Enclosed is a letter (put under this cover for surety of its getting to hand) for him. I sent him two others a day or two ago. With esteem and regard etc.[19]

*To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, March 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: I do not know *how* it happened but so *it is*, that a considerable interval always takes place between the date of your letters to me, and my receipt of them; notwithstanding I send regularly to the Post Office every other day, and frequently every day, when I have reason to expect letters on business.

Premising this, I have to add, that your letter of the 15th. instant enclosing one from Mr. Short (which I return) did not reach me until yesterday.

[19] From a copy kindly furnished by W. Stilson Hutchins, of New Canaan, Conn.

When you shall have occasion to write to that Gentleman, you would oblige me, by offering him my thanks for the trouble he has been at to ascertain Mr. Abrahm. Hite's price, for Woodrows Survey; and at the sametime he is informed of my declining the purchase, I cannot but feel pleasure in finding that lands on Rough Creek look so high; for as you have justly observed, if Mr. Hites land is valued at 10$ pr. acre, mine which surrounds, ought, by analogy, to bear some proportion thereto. When I authorised Mr. Short to proceed to the amount of 20/. pr. acre, I conceived I had stretched the value to its utmost limits; the result of his negociation will have a tendency to make me enquire a little more minutely into the value of my own: for although I am not able to *give* such prices for Lands in that part of the world, I should have no objection to *receiving* them, if persons can be found who are inclined to become purchasers on similar terms.

I thank you for the Paragraph cut out of Greens Paper, although I had seen it before. What *the tale of the Tubs* has turned out to be, I have not heard;[20] but the manner in which it was concealed, is strongly evinsive that it was intended for the *select only*. Many tales of this kind have been, and will continue to be related whilst we have a Party in this Country who are disposed to give them efficacy. One similar to this (just before I left the Administration of the Government) was concealed in a parcel of Tobo, on the Ohio, but unfortunately was not known until it was too late. Yet, the Laws of self preservation against these People are set to view in the most odious light. Except colds, we are all well here, and unite in every good wish for you and yours, with etc.

[20] This "Tub conspiracy" was a silly performance. It is described in McMaster's *History of the People of the United States* (New York: 1885), vol. 2, p. 441.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, March 25, 1799.

My dear Sir: You will not only consider this letter as a *private one,* but as a *friendly one* from G: W to J: M. And if the sentiments which you will find in it, are delivered with more freedom and candour than are agreeable, say so; not by implication only, but in explicit language; and I will promise to offend no more by such conduct; but confine myself (if occasion should require it) to an Official Correspondence.

Thus premising, let me, in the name and behalf of the Officers who have been appointed, and of the Army intended to be raised, ask what keeps back the Commissions; and arrests the Recruiting Service? Be assured that *both,* among the friends of Government, excite astonishment and discontent. Blame is in every Mind, but it is not known where to fix it. Some attach it to the P.; some to the S: of W, and some, *fertile in invention,* seek for other causes. Many of the appointed Officers have quitd their former occupations, that they might be in perfect readiness to proceed in their Military duties the moment they should receive their Commissions and Recruiting Instructions. Others, who were about to enter into business, and plans of future life, stand suspended. Many are highly disgusted; some talk of giving up the idea of becoming Officers, unable to remain longer in the aukward situation they are involved; and *all* are complaining. Applications are made by numbers to me, to know what the cause of the delay is, what they are to expect, and what they ought to do.

What could I say? Am I not kept in as much ignorance as they are themselves? Am I advised of any new appointments? any changes which have taken place? any of the views or

designs of Government relatively to the Army? It is not unreasonable to suppose, that if there be reasons of State, operating the policy of these delays, that I was entitled to sufficient confidence to be let into the secret; or, if they proceeded from uncontroulable causes, *I,* still more than the *Public,* ought not to have been left in the field of Conjecture, without a guide to direct me to the knowledge of them.[21] For I shall frankly declare, that I do not, nor ever shall, consider myself in the light of a Mercenary Officer. Nothing short of a high sense of the Amor Patriæ, could have placed me in my present situation; and though I stand bound, and will obey the call of my Country whenever it is made, agreeably to my letter of acceptance, none will regret the event with more poignancy; none will forsake the walks of retirement with more heartfelt sorrow; nor none, who wd. leave it with more real inconvenience to their private concerns, than I should do. A sixteen years absence from home (with short intervals only) could not fail to derange them considerably; and to require *all the time* I can spare from the usual avocations of life, to bring them into tune again. But this is not all, nor the worst, for being the Executor, the Administrator, and Trustee of, and for other Estates, my greatest anxiety is to leave all these concerns in such a clear, and distinct form, as that no reproach may attach itself to me, when I have taken my departure for the land of Spirits.

I have been thus full, as it relates to myself, in order to shew you, that information in all matters of a Military nature, are necessary for my Government; thereby, having a prospective view of things, I may prepare accordingly; and not, though

[21] McHenry's answer (15 pages) to this letter is dated March 31 and is in the *Washington Papers.* In a short "private" letter of acknowledgment, also dated March 31, McHenry wrote of the John Fries Rebellion in Pennsylvania: "Troops have marched against the Insurgents, and a further detachment is to march from this City on Wednesday next. The people they are to go against are ignorant and mulish." This letter is also in the *Washington Papers.*

detached from the Army until the exigencies of our Affairs may require my presence with it, appear as a person just dropped from the Clouds, when I take the Command: ignorant of preceeding occurrences: nor will it, without doing great violence to the concerns of others, equally with my own, be in my power to "take up my bed and walk" at an unexpected requirement; without great exertions, which it may not be in my power to make, on a sudden call; unless previously hastened (which would be unnecessary) unless I could discover, beforehand, the utility of the measure, by the gradual unfolding of the prospects before us.

I shall now, with your permission, make a few observations as they respect the Recruiting Service. Had the Organization of the Augmented Corps, and consequent Instructions for raising it, tread as close on the passage of the Law, as the nature of the case would have permitted, a finer army for the size of it (with the Discipline it might have received) the World had never seen: but the golden opportunity is passed, and probably will never occur again. The zeal, enthusiasm, and indeed resentments, which warmed the breasts of the American youth, and would have induced the sons of the respectable Yeomanry (in all parts of the United States) to have enlisted as noncommissioned officers and Privates, is now no more; they are evaporated, and a listlessness has supplied its place. The next, most favourable opportunity, namely, the idle, and dreary scenes of winter which bring on dissipation and want, from the cessation of labour, has also passed away! The enlivening prospect of Spring, the calls of the Husbandman, indeed of every avocation, for labourers in the approaching busy season, hath supplanted all thoughts of becoming Soldiers; and *now,* many young Gentlemen who had (conditionally) last Summer and Autumn, engaged their Companies, will find it difficult to

enlist a *single man* of those so engaged. The latter Pretending, that having waited a considerable time to see if their services would be wanted in the Field, and no overtures for them made it became necessary for them to seek some other employment.

What is the natural consequence of all this? Why, that we must take the Rif-raf of the populous Cities; Convicts; and foreigners; or, have Officers without men. But even this is not the worst of it. The Augmented Corps (if I have conceived the matter rightly) must have been intended as a well organized, and well-disciplined body of Men, for others (in case of need) to resort to, and take example from. Will this be the case if the enemy should invade this Country? Far from it! What better, in the first instance, are Regiments so composed than Militia? And what prospect have those who Command them, of rendering Service to their Country, or doing honor to themselves in the Field, opposed to Veteran Troops, practiced in Tactics, and unaccustomed to defeat? These, my dear McHenry, are serious considerations to a man who has nothing to gain, and is putting every thing to a hazard.

When I began this letter, I intended to have stopped *here;* but as I may not again write to you with the freedom I now do, I shall make a few remarks on some other transactions, which have not struck me in the most favourable point of view.

The two Major Generals and myself were called to Philadelphia in November last, and there detained five weeks very inconveniently to all of us) at an inclement season, in wading through volumes of applications and recommendations to Military Appointments; and I will venture to say that it was executed with as much assiduity, and under as little influence of favor or prejudice, as a work of that sort (from the materials which were laid before us) ever was accomplished: and what has followed? Why any Member of Congress who had a friend

to serve, or a prejudice to endulge, could set them at naught. Out of a number, I will select one instance only in proof of this; it is a striking one, the case of Gibbes,[22] I allude to. He was personally known to you, General Hamilton and myself, in his former services. He served through the *whole* Revolutionary war, from the Assembling of the first Troops at Cambridge, to the closing of the Military Drama at the conclusion of Peace, without reproach; and in the last Act of it, If I mistake not, was a Major in the selected Corps of light Infantry. He was strongly recommended by Generals Lincoln, Knox, Brooks and Jackson; all on the same theatre with himself and who ought to be perfectly acquainted with his respectability and pretensions: yet, the Veto of a Member of Congress (I presume) was *more respected,* and sufficient to set him aside.

Another thing I will remark on, because if the practice is continued, you will find that serious discontents, and evils will result from it

I find by the Gazettes (I have *no other* information of these matters) that Lieutt Mercer,[23] of the Light Dragoons, is promoted to the Rank of Captn. in that Corps. In the arrangement of Officers, where every attention was paid (that personal knowledge or information could reach) to *merit, age, respectability* and *standing* in the Community, he was not even placed (if my memory serves me) high up among the Lieutenants. What then will those Lieutenants who were his *Seniors* in that arrangement, greatly his *Seniors* in age, of at *least* as much *respectability, better known,* and of *equal merit* think, of having him placed over *them?* Mercer, compared to some of them, is a boy; and in such an Army as it was our wish to form, it will have an odd appearance to place a young man of 20 or 21

[22] Caleb Gibbs.
[23] Charles Fenton Mercer.

years of age over a Lieutent. of 30, in *every other respect his equal.*

I do not mean to derogate from the merits or deserts of this young Gentleman; on the contrary, I wish to see them *properly* rewarded, although his whole family are *bitter* in their enmity to the General Government: nor would I be understood to mean that if a Captain (and so of any other grade) declines his appointment, that, *during the act of formation,* the vacancy is to be filled by the next in Seniority, necessarily. So far from this, I maintain, that where a vacancy is occasioned by non-acceptance, that it may, without injustice, be filled by a *new character,* as in the first instance; but it is my opinion at the sametime, that if you have recourse to *promotion* that the arrangement which was made by the Board of General Officers (in all its parts) who had regard to all the Combinations, and qualifications that have been enumerated, in settling the relative rank, is the safest guide you could have resorted to.

It is not my intention to dispute the *Powers* of the President to make *this,* or *any other* promotion his inclination, or the solicitation of others, may prompt him to;[24] but I will add, without fear of contradiction by any one acquainted with the usages, and prescriptive rights of Armies, that if he wishes to preserve the Peace and harmony of *ours,* rules must be observed; and the feelings of the Officers attended to, in Promotions.

These observations, relatively to the promotion of Lieutenant Mercer, are not the result of any discontent I have heard expressed on the occasion; for except those who take the Philadelphia Gazette, but a few of the Officers may be acquainted therewith; and of that few, I have seen none since its annunciation to the public. It is on general ground they are made, and by judging of the feeling of others, by what would be my own,

[24] Mercer declined his commission.

in a similar case; for I do not think it will be a very reconcilable matter, to Gentlemen of more respectable ages, better known in the walks of life, and much more likely to Recruit men, to have a youth fresh from College, placed over their heads.

As vacancies have happened in the Cavalry by non-acceptances &ca, and promotions have begun; may I ask if there would be any impropriety in letting Mr. Custis step from a Cornecy, into the Rank of Lieutenant? If I mistake not, in the arrangement given in, he stands the first for promotion; that is, he was made the senior Cornet. The Major Generals were desirous of placing him as Lieutenant in the first instance; but, his age considered, I thought it more eligable that he should enter into the lowest grade of Commissioned Officers. If ample fortune, good Education, more than common abilities, and good dispositions, free from Vice of any kind, give him a title, in the 19th. year of his age, his pretentions thereto (though not to the injury of another) are good. But it is not my desire to ask this as a favour. I never have, and never shall, solicit anything for myself, or connexions. I mean nothing more than the statement of a fact, in order to bring his situation to view.

There is one matter more, which I was in doubt whether to mention to you, or not, because it is of a more delicate nature than any I have touched upon; but finally, friendship have got the better of my scruples.

It respects yourself *personally*. Whilst I was in Philadelphia, and after the Members of Congress had begun to Assemble, it was hinted to me, in pretty *strong terms* by more than one of them, that the Department of War would not, nay could not, be conducted to advantage (if War should ensue) under your auspices; for instead of attending to the *great* out lines, and *principles* of your Office, and keeping the subordinate Officers of the Department rigidly to their respective duties, *they*, were

inattentive, while *you,* were bewildered with trifles. You will recollect, I dare say, that more than once, I expressed to you my opinion of the expediency of committing the *Details* of the Department to the execution of others; and to bestow your thoughts and attention to the more important Duties of it; which, in the scenes we were contemplating, were alone sufficient to occupy the time, and all the consideration of the Secretary. I went no farther *then,* nor should I have renewed the subject *now,* had not the delay in issuing the Commissions, and commencing the Recruiting service, excited general reprobation, and blame, though, as I have observed before, no one knows where, with precision, to fix it; generally however, it is attributed to the want of system, and exertion in the Department of War. To apprise you of this, is my motive for this communication.

I prefaced the sentiments of this letter with a request, that they might be considered as proceeding from a private man to his friend. No one would be struck more forcibly than myself, with the impropriety of such a letter from the Commander in chief of the Army of the U. States to the Secretary of War. If they are received in good part, the end is obtained. If otherwise, my motives, and the purity of my intentions, is the best apology I can offer for the liberty I have taken. In either case however, be assured of this truth, that with very great esteem and regard, I remain &c.[25]

*To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, March 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 14th. instant with its enclosures, came to hand by the last Post.

[25] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

In the present State of the Army (or more properly the Embryo of one, for I do not perceive from any thing that has come to my knowledge that we are likely to move beyond this) and until the Augmented force shall have been Recruited, Assembled and in the Field, the residence of the Paymaster Genl (I did not know there was one until your letter announced it) will be found most eligable at the Seat of General Government; and you will please to give such Orders respecting it, as you shall think proper, as I am unwilling to issue any.

Under this Cover, you will find a letter which I have just received from Colo. Hamtramck, with a short acknowledgment of its receipt; which you will be so good as to forward with your dispatches for the Western Army. With very great esteem and regd. etc.[26]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN FRANCIS HAMTRAMCK[27]

Mount Vernon, March 25, 1799.

Sir: Your polite and flattering letter of the 28th. of January, dated at Fort Wayne, has just got to my hands.

For the favourable sentiments you have been pleased to express for me, I pray you to accept my grateful thanks.

If any thing besides a duty, which I think every good Citizen owes his Country when its rights are invaded, and everything dear to it is threatned, could console me for quitting the peaceful scenes on which I had entered with avidity, it would be the meeting again in the Field of Mars of so many of my Compatriots in Arms, with whom I had toiled through more than a Seven years War; and for whose aid and exertions, I was so

[26] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[27] Of the First U. S. Infantry.

much indebted. Among this number I certainly shall place Colo. Hamtramck.

The particular care of all matters, which relate to the Western Army, and Posts in that Region, is Committed to Majr. General Hamilton, to whom all Returns, Reports &ca. are to be made. With esteem and regard etc.

*To JULIUS DANDRIDGE

Mount Vernon, March 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: The enclosed came under cover to me a few days ago, and not knowing into whose hands better to place it then yours, I forward it to you accordingly.

The doing so, furnishes an opportunity of condoling with you, and the other friends of Mr. John Dandridge, on his death; an event I sincerely regretted.

From the Superscription, I know the enclosed letter is from your brother Bartholomew; who, no doubt, has therein, informed of his *present* situation; should I be mistaken however, in this conjecture, he is *now* Secretary to our Minister (Mr King) in London; a Post as honourable, as it may ultimately prove advantageous to him on his passage through life. The family at this place are all well, and offer you there best wishes. With esteem etc. [N. Y. P. L.]

*To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your favour of the 8th. instt. from Charleston has been duly received, and it gave us the pleasure of hearing that you, Mrs. and Miss Pinckney, had arrived in good health

at that place. The first few days of January excepted, you could not have been more favoured in the Weather than all the remainder of that month, and until the middle of Febry afforded. Although your Report of the arrangement for South Carolina and Georgia; your Reconnoitre of the Seaboard to St. Mary's; and visit of the Posts on the Indian Frontier of the latter State; will be made to the Department of War, I should be glad nevertheless to know the result of them: for although I do not mean to *Act* in the present State of our Military concerns, yet it is my wish, to be regularly informed of the *real* situation of them; that I may not have every thing to learn, if the exigencies of our affairs should require my attendance in the Field. To have been informed of the arrangemts made by you, with General (now Governor) Davie,[28] would have been satisfactory also.

I am disposed to believe (from circumstances which had just got to my knowledge before I left the helm of Government) that the Garrisons on the Frontier of Georgia required a strict Inspection; not only for the purpose of restoring due subordination, but for the correction of other misdemeanors in Officers. Your determination therefore to look closely into these matters, and to establish strict Discipline is highly proper, and will certainly be supported. An Army cannot be governed without; for no mistake in him, who commands it is greater, or more fatal to its existence, and the welfare of its Country, than Lax Discipline. Nor is it the right road to true and permanent popularity. Civility is due to, but obedience is required from, all its members; these accompanied with strict justice, and a proper attention to army rights and Wants, will secure love and respect, while one indulgence begets an application

[28] Of North Carolina.

for another, and another, until order is lost in disorder and contempt brings up the Rear.

I shall be very glad to see Brigadr General Washington on his rout to Princeton; but he will find but little to do (in the Military line) in this State. To what cause to attribute the delay, I know not, but the fact is, that not an Officer (that I have heard of) has received his Commission; nor one, who has had, any Orders to Recruit. The enthusiasm of last Summer and Autumn, was suffered to evaporate for want of these. The dreary months of Winter, which (for want of employment in that class of men who usually become Soldiers) bring on idleness and dissipation, is now succeeded by the opening of Spring, when labourers are in demand by the husbandmen, and other avocations, and has passed away also. In a word, all is a mistery to me.

I have very little more knowledge of the Captains in the Virginia line, as arranged by us at Philadelphia, than what was derived from the source of information then laid before us. I have no hesitation however, in mentioning the name of a Gentleman (conditionally) to whom under my present view of them; I should give a *decided* preference. It is Presley Thornton, Son of one of the most respectable Gentlemen (now deceased, of the same name) in this State. He is thirty, or thereabouts; amiable in his character, He was a British Officer during our Revolution, but would not fight against his Country and therefore went to Gibraltar and was in Garrison there during its Siege by the Spaniards where, it is said, he distinguished himself by his gallant behaviour.

The condition I alluded to, and which I annex to this recommendation, is, that if I shd. want him myself, and circumstances in the combinations I should have to make in the choice

of my own Aids de Camp, should not be opposed to it, that you may not take amiss my calling him into my Military sute [*sic*]. I have never given him the most distant hint of such an intention, nor would I have him know that it ever was in contemplation; especially as it is an event that may never happen. Indeed, I mean to be under no engagement to any of my established Aids, until I am about to enter on my Mily duties.

Mrs. Washington is much obliged to Mrs. Pinckney for the Mellon Seeds; as I am to you for your attention to the Plumes; and with Mrs. Lewis' (that now is) &ca. best wishes to you, Mrs. Pinckney and family, and to enquirg. frds. I am etc.

P. S. Mr. Lewis and Nelly Custis fulfilled their matrimonial engagemt on the 22d. of February. In consequence, the former, havg. relinquished the Lapp of Mars for the Sports of Venus, has declined his Mily appointmt.[29]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1799.

Dear Sir: This letter will be presented to you by Burwell Bassett Esqr one of the Senate of this Commonwealth, and a Nephew to Mrs. Washington; whom I beg leave to introduce to your civilities.

Mr Bassett will mention to you the wish of another of Mrs. Washingtons Nephews, Mr. Robert Henley, to obtain a birth as Midshipman in one of our Frigates (if youths of Sixteen are Admitted).

I am not, myself, acquainted with this young Gentleman; but on Mr. Bassetts report of him, who is you may entirely rely. I have the honor etc.

[29] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of J. M. Winterbotham, of Galveston, Tex.

*To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1799.

My dear Sir: When Major Pinckney[30] was here (returning from Philadelphia) he expressed the earnest wish of the Gentleman of South Carolina to get into the breeding of Mules from good Jacks. I said, but I believe not in a way to be understood, that I should part with some of my young Jacks (three of which he saw) descendents from Royal Gift, out of Imported Jennies.

In a letter which I have written to General Washington[31] I have mentioned this circumstance that if your brother, himself, or any other of their friends are disposed to purchase they may know where, and on what terms they can be supplied with these valuable animals.

I sent him a correct discription of two young Jacks, copy of which, for Major Pinckney's information, I enclose as it is probable my namesake may be on his journey hitherwards before my letter may have reached Charleston. With much esteem etc.

*To REVEREND MASON LOCKE WEEMS

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 26th instt came duly to hand. In answer thereto, I inform you that, my sale to Mr. James Welch, of the Lands I hold upon the Great Kanhawa, is conditional only.

He has a Lease of them at a certain annual Rent, which if punctually paid, for Six years, and at the end thereof shall pay one fourth of the sum fixed on as the value of them; and the like sum by Instalments the three following years, and this

[30] Thomas Pinckney.
[31] Brig. Gen. William Washington.

without any let or hindrance that then, and in that case only, I am to convey them in Fee simple, not else.

This is the nature of the agreemt. between Mr. Welch and Sir Your etc.

PS. It may not be amiss to add that the first years Rent (due in Jay. last) is not yet paid

*To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, March 31, 1799.

My dear Sir: By a letter which I have just received from General Pinckney, I find you may be shortly expected in this State, on your way to Princeton. It is unnecessary I hope for me to say, that whether you come alone or bring Mrs. Washington with you that we shall be very happy to see you at this place.

In the *Military line* I fear you will find but little duty to detain you long in this State for strange as it may seem, it is not less true that not a Military Commission has issued yet that has come to my knowledge, nor a single order for Recruiting. The cause of these delays is, to me, incomprehensable.

When Major Pinckney was here (on his return from Congress) he mentioned the great desire the Gentlemen of So. Carolina had of getting into the breed of Mules. I did not, I believe, in such direct terms as for him to understand intimate that I would sell two or three young Jacks, descended from Royal Gift, which would be of sufficient age to cover next Season, [one of] them indeed might have done so this Spring [with]out injury. At the time the Major wa[s here] I thought I could have parted with *three,* [but] one of my Jacks that *now* Covers, by a [mutilated] of which I fear he will never recover, [made] it necessary for me to retain one of the 3, [to sup]ply his place; especially as I lost two ([mutilated] ones) last y[ear

mutilated] nary manner: One of them, Compound [which] money scarcely would have induced me to pa[rt wth.]

Enclosed, is a description of the [two] I would sell, their breed, and price;[32] that if Major Pinckney, yourself, or any other of your acquaintance to the Southward, is in [want] of such, you may know where, and on what t[erms] you can be supplied. It is presumed they [are not far] short of their gr[owth and that they are] of the most valuable breed in this country [none] can deny.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in best wishes for you and your Lady, and I am etc.[33]

*To SAMUEL WASHINGTON[34]

Mount Vernon, April 2, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 28th. of last Month came to my hands last night.

Inconvenient as it is to me (and nothing can be more so, than it is at this time) to part with what little money I have in the Bank of Alexandria; yet, rather than suffer your Negros

[32] The inclosed description is as follows:

March 31, 1799.

Two young Jacks, full brothers, out of an Imported Jenney from Surinam; got by Compound, who was got by Royal Gift (an Imported Jack from Spain) on an Imported Jenney from Malta (full fourteen hands high) and a most valuable Jack.

These Jacks have never been to Mares. the oldest of them was four last July. Measures three feet eleven inches before, and four feet behind. The other was three years old last August, and measures three feet eight Inches before and three feet ten inchs behind.

They are boney and strong; and it is presumed will grow considerably yet.

The price of the oldest, is $750 and of the youngest $650. Compound their Sire was remarkable for getting fine Mules.

Three, four or more Jennies may be had, all from those which I have Imported, and got by Compound, or the Knight of Malta.

[33] The press copy is mutilated. The words in brackets are supplied as the probable text.

[34] Son of Charles Washington.

On March 31 Washington wrote briefly to John Tayloe, expressing regret that Tayloe was unable to get to Mount Vernon. The press copy of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

to be taken in Execution, and sold perhaps at half price, I will answer your draughts to the amount of One thousand dollars, but not one cent beyond; as that sum will take nearly every farthing I have in the Bank, and is insufficient to meet demands which, every moment, I expect will be made upon myself.

The reason why I chuse to answer your draughts, instead of sending you a check on the Bank; is, because the latter is too hazardous to risk by the Post. A check is always made payable to the bearer, consequently if my letter was to get into improper hands, you might derive no benefit from it, whilst I should lose it altogether; and neither of us be acquainted with the fact until it would be too late to apply a remedy; for the bearer would receive the money without any questions being asked; the check would be a voucher at the Bank that it had been paid; I should be charged therewith; and until a settlement with you, should never know whether you had received it, or not. On the other hand, an order drawn upon me, in favour of any one, that person, or his Assignee, will receive a Check to the amount thereof, on the Bank; and no risk is run, by the draugher, or payer.

Nothing but the desire of preserving you, from what you say would be your ruin, has induced me to advance this money; for I have not only not received the money I wrote you I expected, but am now convinced I shall not do it, without going into a Court of justice, to recover it; while taxes (and very heavy ones); unavoidable expences; and buildings which I was importuned (on Public considerations) to erect in the Federal City (and by contract am to advance money to carry on when demanded) will drive me to the necessity (if I can obtain it at all) of borrowing at the ruinous interest it was loaned, at the Bank.

I cannot conclude this letter without remarking, that Building such a house as I am told you have (under such circumstances as you were) was an extremely imprudent act; whether done with the money you borrowed from me, or obtained by other means. Knowing that you had made yourself liable for your fathers Debts, the discharge of them ought to have been your first consideration; or, at any rate, if to build was indispensable, a small house, or house upon such a plan as might have become part of a whole, when compleated, ought to have contented you. What has happened however cannot now be undone, and the object of these remarks is to advise caution.

It would be convenient to me, to draw your Orders at as long a day as you can obtain; but I will pay at sight, rather than you shd. suffer. If orders upon me will not be received, or received with reluctance, you must either come down yourself, or send some one on whom you can confide, for the money. At any rate write me, without delay, that I may know what to expect, and be prepared. I am sorry to know that your father has been so much indisposed; My best wishes and love are offered to all the family, and I am etc. [H. L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1799.

My dear Sir: When your letters of the 30th and 31st. Ulto. were brought here, I was on a Survey of some land I hold in the vicinity of Alexandria;[35] on which, as I was informed, and as

[35] The Four Mile Run tract. On April 15 Washington wrote out a memorandum of the bounds of this tract as surveyed, a photostat of the original of which, through the courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, is in the *Washington Papers*.

the fact proved, considerable trespass had been committed. To complete this business I was employed near three days; and now, company will allow me to do but little more than to acknowedge the receipt of those letters.

Two things, however, I shall not forbear mentioning at this time. The first is, that while I was at Phila. and since, when I heard your conduct arraigned for not having the Augmented Force organized sooner, and for the consequent delay in Recruiting; I did then, and on all other proper occasions, declare that circumstances over which you had no controul, were the causes thereof; and that no blame ought to be attached to you. The other matter is, that if the issuing of Commissions to those who have accepted their Appointments, is to be suspended until you hear from all those who have not acknowledged the receipt of your Circular letter, or some missive (if the Circular is not competent thereto) is not given by which the accepting Officers may know what they have to rely on, be entitled to pay, and be authorized (when they shall be so Instructed) to enter on the Recruiting Service, that it may be months, nay a year, before this will happen.

Those who live in Post Towns. near Post Offices, or who are in the habit of enquiring at these places for letters, would have been enabled to answer your Address to them in time; but a number of others may be uninformed of your letter to them at this hour; especially as many of them may have been sent to wrong Offices, and will only be heard of by the Advertisement of them.

Let me ask then, if there would be any ineligibility in inserting in the Gazettes of the respective States, the names and grades of those belonging thereto, who have returned no answer; requesting a yea, or nay, without further delay; assigning the reason for such a mode of application.

A notification of this kind would reach them through the medium of some friend, even if they did not see the Gazettes themselves; and accomplish in a short time what may be tedious without. I will add no more at present than that I am always etc.[36]

*To WILLIAM BOOKER

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 31st Ulto. has been duly received.

The first of June will answer my purposes very well, for you to be here; and I shall expect you at that time, or by the 10th. accordingly.

It will not, I presume, require much time to erect the Mill, and if done before the Water of my Grist Mill fails, it is all I require. In the meanwhile the Scantling shall be prepared agreeably to your directions. with esteem I am etc.

*To JAMES WELCH

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1799.

Sir: I have received your letters of the 10th. of March from Rockingham County, and although I have no expectation of deriving any payment from your Kentucky Expedition, yet, I will (inconvenient as it is to me) wait a while longer to know the result of it: desiring you to be persuaded, in the meantime, that you have not got a person *now,* that will be trifled with in your dealings.

It would be uncandid, Mr. Welch, not to inform you, that I have heard too much of your character lately, not to expect tale after tale, and relation after relation, of your numerous disappointments, by way of excuses for the non-compliance of your

[36] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

agreement with me: but this I can assure you will not answer your purposes.

It is not difficult for a person who has no ground on which to expect a thousand cents, to talk with facility and ease of his expectation of receiving ten times as many dollars; the relation of disappointments in which, according to his account, he conceives is quite sufficient to ward off the payment of his own solemn Contracts, and to satisfy his Creditors.

I am not unacquainted, Sir, with your repeated declarations of your having purchased[37] my Lands on the Great Kanawa, and endeavouring by that means, and such like impositions, and misrepresentations, to obtain extensive credit where you were not known. Letters, to enquire into the truth of these things, have been written to me on the Subject. Be cautious therefore how you provoke explanations that must, inevitably, end in your disgrace and entire loss of character. A character is valuable to all men, and not less so to a Speculator.

I will, before I conclude, assure you in the most unequivocal terms of two things.

First, that I am in extreme want of the money which you gave me a solemn promise I should receive the first of January last; and secondly, that however you may have succeeded in imposing upon, and deceiving others, you shall not practice the like game with me, with impunity.

To contract new Debts, is not the way to pay old ones. Nor is it a proof that you have any disposition to do it, when you are proposing to buy lands &ca. &ca. on credit (or partial advances) which can answer no other purpose that that of speculation; or (if you have them) of withholding the means which ought to be applied in the discharge of engagements, and debts, proceeding therefrom, which you are bound by every tie to do.

[37] This word is written by Washington in large letters.

Consider this letter well; and then write without any deception to Sir, Your etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, April 7, 1799.

Sir: Enclosed are two letters of application for Appointments in the Army of the United States. One from Genl. Morgan covering a letter from Capt. A. C. Randolph[38] applying for an office in the Cavalry instead of the Infantry where you will find him among the newly appointed Captains. I have little or no personal knowledge of Capt Randolph; but from the manner in which Genl. Morgan speaks of him, and the opportunities he must have had of forming an opinion of him and his qualifications from observation, I have no doubt but his recommendation will have great weight.

The other letter is from Mr. Theoderic Lee, a brother to Majr Gen. Henry Lee. With this gentleman I have had no opportunity of forming any personal knowledge. He lives in Berkley County in this State and has been married about 4 or 5 years. His brother the Atty Genl. of the U. S. or some other persons of his acquaintance may be able to give you any information respecting Mr Lee if it shd. be desired. I have the honor etc.[39]

*To WILLIAM B. HARRISON

Mount Vernon, April 10, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 28th of last month has been duly received, and is entitled to my thanks for the details it contains; and for the assurance you have given me if a preference in

[38] Capt. Archibald Cary Randolph, of the Seventh Infantry. He was honorably discharged in June, 1800.

[39] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

Renting yr Land. But as there is not the smallest probability of my Renting, or buying. while you hold both at the rates which have been mentioned, I by no means desire that you should miss an opportunity of doing either, on my Account.

It is not for me to say, by what means others would be enabled to pay a Rent of more than two hundred dollars pr. Annum; for admitting there were only 300 acres in the tract, and rating these at $12 pr acre the interest thereof would come to $216 dollars, and as this is your mode of fixing, and asking a Rent of me I must decline it. It is not, I say, for me to pronounce what others can afford to give; but I will aver that I could not pay that Rent by anything I could raise on the land, as I think you would have no hesitation in acknowledging, if you were to examine the situation of it with accuracy. Nor would I be concerned with it at all, unless I could have a lease of it for a certain term of years, because if I am not more mistaken than I believe I am, there is not wood on it to supply fencing and firing three years (if that) and because, therefore, I should have surrounded it with a large and deep ditch; probably with a hedge also, which would cost more money than ought to be laid out upon uncertain contingencies. And moreover, because $216 is unusually more than 2500 lbs of Tobacco or 3000 either, can be estimated at; even with the addition of 5 bls. of Fish.

Who Jno. Robinson is, I know not, with certainty, but if it is the person I conjecture, I believe it may be said without much impropriety that there is a wide difference between engaging a Rent, and paying it: that, however, is no lookout of mine. Nor do I know who the person is that offered you £2400 for the Land, payable in Welch's Bonds, but you may receive it from me as a fact, that he had better reason for not warranting those Bonds than he disclosed to you, as I could make you

sensible of, if it was necessary and proper, to go into the detail. I *know* Welch, *WELL,* I have good reason to know him and *believe* if you had been disposed to have laid out Cash, or anything else of *real* value, for those Bonds, you might have got a *great* bargain if the *sound of a large* nominal price instead of a *small* real one, would have constituted it.

As to Mr. Hamilton, you perhaps are as well, if not better acquainted with him than I am, and therefore I shall add nothing concerning this person but will make the same observation on purchasing, as I did on Renting, namely, that contracting is one thing, and fulfilling an engagement is another; but, if payment however is well secured, it may be good at last, and as Hudibras says every thing is worth what it will fetch. If you can get the interest of twelve dollars an acre as Rent, or that sum per acre on a Sale of the Land, and the one, or the other *actually* paid, the Land is worth that sum to you. The Tenant, or Purchaser is to consider what the value of it is to him, and the man who means to pay, will do so. You observe that what may be deemed a high Rent *now,* will prove a low one some years hence; in general, the observation is true; but it applies more particularly to New lands, lands in the interior part of the Country, or Lands under particular circumstances, and capable of improvement; But not to old and worn out land, devoid of Timber and Wood, without a prospect of procuring either, and no earthly means of improving it. These fall, or are left for new lands.

I never heard of Colo. Masons and Mr Chichesters Survey of the lands hereabouts; but as you talk of getting yours run round this Spring, if you will come and take a bed at my house, I have a Clerk (living with me) who Surveys very well and shall do it for you without cost, the next day. and on account of the putting out of the Leaves of the Trees, the sooner it is

done the better. The lines between you and me, I know perfectly; the others no doubt can be found. With esteem etc.

*To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, April 10, 1799.

My dear Sir: I have received your letter of the 27th. Ulto. enclosing a design of dividing the State of Virginia into Divisions, and subdivisions, for the head quarters of the Rendezvouses in each: asking my opinion of the proper distribution of them, for the convenience of the Recruiting Service.

The Grand division of the State, I conceive to be well allotted, and with the following alterations, the sub-division of it may be so likewise: but of the latter, I can speak with no precision, because of the number of New Counties which have been established, the situation of which I know not, and even the names of some were unknown to me before.

The alterations I propose, are as follow: 1st. to make Hobbshole, instead of the Bolling Green, the 8th Rendezvous (refering to the plan you sent me); because, as you will perceive by the Map of Virginia, Carolina County is the uppermost in *that* subdistrict, and the Bolling Green lyes at the upper corner of the said County. 2d. Let Fairfax and Loudoun Counties (which were formerly one) form a subdivision in place of Fairfax and Fauquier, which are seperated by other Counties. Alexandria, or Leesburgh may be the head quarters of that Rendezvous. The first is, (comparatively), large and populous, and on Navigation; the other is 40 miles above navigation, and a small Village; both are healthy, and well supplied with provisions &ca. 3d. Prince William and Fauquier ought to be annexed, instead of Prince William and Loudoun, which join at the extreme

Corners *only*. Dumfries in Prince William, or Fauquier Court Ho. might be the Rendezvous. The first is on Navigation; the latter 40 miles above, and more central. 4th. York Town is more in the centre of the 6th. subdivision than Williamsburgh; and 5th, Northumberland Court House is too low for the 9th. subdivision; either Westmoreland or Richmond Court Houses in point of centrality, would be more eligable.

General Lee's absences from home, canvassing for the ensuing Election of Representatives to Congress, and an indisposition with which he has (as I have lately heard) been siesed, from it, has been, I presume, the cause of your not having received an answer to your letter; for I am certain Mr Bushrod Washington wd. have left it at his house as he returned home, agreeable to his promise to me.

Your letters to Colonels Parker and Bently I have forwarded by the Post; the 1st. under Cover to General Morgan, to whom Parker is a neighbour; the other to Colo Carrington who will be able to give it a safe Conveyance from Richmond; to the Post Office in which, it must have proceeded.

Not an Officer in this State (that has come to my knowledge) has yet received his Commission; to the great dissatisfaction of *all,* and relinquishment of many; who would no longer remain in a state of suspence and idleness. With great truth, I remain etc.[40]

To DANIEL MORGAN

Mount Vernon, April 10, 1799.

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 3d. Inst. Covering the copy of a letter from Capt. A. C. Randolph to yourself expressing a wish to be removed from the Infantry to

[40] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

the Cavalry. These letters I have forwarded to the Secretary of War, who I have no doubt will, considering the favorable auspices under which Capt. Randolph is introduced, make any arrangement he can, consistent with the good of the Service, to promote his wishes.

I take the liberty to enclose to your care a letter from General Hamilton, the Inspector General of the armies of the United States to Colo. Thomas Parker. This letter relates to the recruiting Service, which is under the direction of the Inspector General, and it is desirable that it should get to Colo. Parkers hands as soon as possible: I have therefore put it under Cover to you, as being the most sure and direct mode of conveyance.

I assure you my dear sir it gave me not a little pleasure, to find the account of your death in the news papers was not founded in fact and I sincerely pray that many years may elapse before that event takes place, and that in the mean time you may be restored to the full enjoyment of your health and to your usefulness in Society being With very great regard etc.[41]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, April 10, 1799.

Sir: Enclosed is a letter and sundry Certificates which have been handed to me by a Monsr. Demounonier, a French Gentn. who is desireous of entering into the service of the United States in the military line.

I forward this letter and these documents to you as I have done all of a similar nature which have come to my hand; but how far it may comport with the line of policy marked out by the Govt. of the U. S. to admit a foreigner to its service, and

[41] The draft is in the writing of Albin Rawlins.

particularly a Frenchman at this time, you know better than myself. I shall therefore make no observation on the subject. I have the honor etc.[42]

*To MAJOR GENERAL HENRY LEE

Mount Vernon, April 18, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 28th. of Feby came duly to hand. On the subject of which I shall say nothing until I have the pleasure of seeing you in May, as promised.

The intention of this letter is to enquire, as you have frequently offered it, whether you have, at this time, any Corn for Sale.

I want more than my Nephew of Westmoreland can furnish me with, and will allow for what you can spare the same price I am to give him; that is, the Alexandria *Cash* price, at the time of delivery (sharing the freight equally), or, I will allow fifteen shillings per barrel; the now, as I am informed, marked price, and what Mr. Tayloe informs me he has just received for a vessel load he had sent to Baltimore.

Pray write me by *first* post, whether I may expect any from you, or not; how much, and when; Yours etc.

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, April 21, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 19th. is before me, and for the details it contains respecting my buildings in the City, I thank you. As I do for directing the exterior door Cills thereof to be

[42] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

On April 10 Washington wrote to Edward Carrington, asking his aid in forwarding a letter from the Inspector General to Colonel Bentley. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

made of Stone. I never attended so closely to the specification of the work, as to know they were, originally, intended to be of Wood; On the contrary, as the Frontispiece was to be of Stone I took it for granted that the Cills were to be of Stone also.

By the first Vessel from Boston, I expect the Glass for those houses, which is promised to be good, and of the sizes given in by Mr. Blagden.

We hear with much regret, of the death of Miss Dalton. Mr. Lear not having returned according to his expectation, and having heard nothing from him since he left this place, we were apprehensive he was sick, and are in the dark yet, respecting it. With esteem and regd. I am etc.

P. S. Since writing this letter Mr. Lear has popped in having been sick at his own Farm[43]

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, April 21, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 21st of March and 11th. instant are both before me.

By the first, it appears that you had shipped by Captn. Hand for Alexandria, on my a/c, 12 lbs of white Clover Seed and the like quantity of Lucerne; but none has been delivered by him at the Custom house, or elsewhere that I can discover, which is a considerable disappointment to me; for depending thereon I enquired for no other; and now, the season for sowing them is too far advanced to go in pursuit of any elsewhere.

I am obliged to you for Shipping, by Ellwood the Packages deposited at the Custom Ho. in Phila. for me. I presume they were recd. there from the George Barclay from the East Indies,

[43] From a photostat of the original through the courtesy of Mrs. Mary Lincoln Isham, of Washington, D. C.

if so, they contain Seeds and exotics from that Country, and ought now, to be in the ground. With esteem etc.

What are the present prices of Flour and Wheat in Philadelphia? [H.S.P.]

*To JESSE SIMMS

Mount Vernon, April 22, 1799.

Sir: Until I see General Lee (which according to his promise may be expected early in next month), I shall give no definitive answer to your letter of the 19th. instant.

It may not be improper, however, in the meantime to add, that your deceptious treatment of me, has not impressed me with the most favorable sentiments of your candour; and if a report which I hear has been propagated by you, or some person in your behalf, that I have been speculating in your notes, be true; such injurious insinuations place you on worse ground than before, in my estimation; for I am sure you were not to learn that I was to allow General Lee the full nominal amount of your Note; and I am moreover sure, that you could have had no reason to believe, because the fact is known to be notoriously otherwise, that I ever speculated in notes, or certificates, to the amount of a farthing in my life. Such a report then must have been conceived in malice, and propagated for the worst purposes. I am etc.

*To ROGER WEST

Mount Vernon, April 23, 1799.

Sir: I will answer the queries contained in your letter of this date, to the best of my recollection.

In the morning visit you did me the honor to make, sometime last Autumn, at which you delivered me a letter from Colo. Hooe, intimating your desire to engage in the Military

Service of our Country, I understood, from the conversation that passed on that occasion, that your object was to enter into the Provisional Army; because it would not comport with your convenience, or inclination, I am not sure wch. (for not expecting to be called upon to relate them, My mind was but little impressed with particular expressions) to engage in this line, unless the Country should be Invaded.

I am not impressed with the idea that you objected to an appointment in the twelve Regiments because it might come under the denomination of a *standing* Army, but I clearly understood that your object was the Provisional, for the reason I have assigned. You spoke of a force of which I had never heard; and a good deal of conversation ensued on that, and the situation into which we were thrown; but I am unable to give a precise account of it. Nor have I leisure *now* to recollect myself, as I have strangers in the house, and am besides much hurried in preparing some important dispatches for the Mail of tomorrow. I have heard of your illness with concern and wish you a perfect restoration of health. being Sir Your etc.

I wish you may be able to understand the meaning of this scrawl, as I am compelled to write it in much haste.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, April 23, 1799.

My dear Sir: Six days do I labour, or, in other words, take exercise and devote my time to various occupations in Husbandry, and about my Mansion. On the seventh, now called the first day, for want of a place of Worship (within less than nine miles) such letters as do not require immediate acknowledgment I give answers to (Mr. Lear being sick and absent).

But it hath so happened, that on the two last Sundays, call them the first or seventh day as you please, I have been unable to perform the latter duty, on account of visits from Strangers, with whom I could not use the freedom to leave alone, or recommend to the care of each other, for their amusement.

This short history of the manner in which I employ my time is given by way of an apology for suffering your letters of the 30th and 31st Ulto. to remain so long unanswered; acknowledged they were; and two points which related most immediately to yourself, personally, were dwelt upon in my last. Were it not for this, I should have appropriated sooner, one of the six days I am now about to borrow, for the following communications.

I have perused with attention your Instructions to General Hamilton, and can readily conceive from the purport of them what the tenor of those are which you have issued to General Pinckney. These Instructions appear to me to be well digested; and are appropriate to the ends contemplated.

I once thought, it being more regular, that the old Troops under the command of General Wilkinson, had better have remained so; subordinate to the Orders of Genl. Hamilton, to whom, through the Department of War (for the reasons alledged in the Instructions) all Reports and returns ought to be made. But on more mature consideration of the multiplied, extensive, and checquered position of those Troops, I am disposed to believe that your plan is preferable.

In my last, I gave what I conceiv'd to be the reason why you were uninformed of the intentions of so many of the appointed Officers, and took the liberty of suggesting a mode by which their acceptance, or refusal, might speedily be ascertained. This suggestion, and your Circular (which now appears in all the Gazettes) renders it unnecessary for me to say anything more

on that head. And if the obstacles which were opposed to the preparatory measures for Recruiting, were such as not to be overcome, like many other things, most desirable, but unattainable, we may regret the loss, though we submit to the disappointment.

Until your Circular appeared, I do not believe that it was the expectation of the newly appointed Officers (who had not received their Commissions) that they were to draw pay from the date of their Acceptances; and to this uncertainty, after having thrown themselves out of other business, was their discontents to be ascribed. Your circular communication, and a just arrangement of Rank hereafter, will, no doubt put all matters to rights. But if these Officers are not speedily employed in the Recruiting Service, a clamour will soon arise in another quarter, for it will be asked why are they in actual pay and unimployed.

Care will be taken, I presume, in settling relative Rank not to be governed by the date of the acceptances, for that would give to the Officers of those States who are most contiguous to the Seat of Government, advantages which would be as unjust, as they are great.

I do not recollect with precision the circumstances you allude to, as having taken place in the year 1792 under the auspices of one of your Predecessors. But however anxious Officers are to be possessed of their Commissions, I have no hesitation in declaring it as my opinion, that I see no cause they would have to complain of their being withheld, for the reasons you have mentioned, when the matter is explained to them, and they are in the receipt of emolumts. With respect to Connecticut, and the States South of Virginia, I was at no loss to account for the delays which had taken place in them, not only as it respected the Recruiting Service, but as it related to the appointment of the Officers also.

General Hamilton having communicated to me his arrangement of the State of Virginia into districts; and sub-divisions, with the places of rendezvous in each, I have suggested a few (unimportant) alterations in the sub-districts, with which I am best acquainted.

In the revised printed Instructions for Recruiting, which you have been pleased to send to me, there are several blanks which I presume will be filled up before they are finally issued. These are to be found in the 2d. 5th. and 28th. Articles.

The quotation of the answer given to your representation,[44] respecting the suspension of the arrangement, and consequent delay in Recruiting; betrays a manifest want of knowledge of the subject. There is a "tide, it is said, in all things," and there was a combination of circumstances at the passing of the Act, among which resentment was not the least, which produced an uncommon enthusiasm; and which, until it began to slacken and ebb, might have been improved to great advantage. But taking the matter up, upon the *principle* of the answer, could there have been a stronger reason assigned agt. delay than the *difficulty* of obtaining Men?

If the enumerated obstacles were such as would retard the Recruiting Service, it ought to have commenced with redoubled ardour. The voice of the People, as expressed by their representatives adjudged this Force necessary. The Law was posi-

[44] McHenry's letter states the answer of President Adams to his representation: "When I spoke of the time we had lost, after all my proposals for organizing the army had been rejected or procrastinated, what was the reply of the President on the 28th of October, 1798. He observed. 'As to the recruiting service, I wonder whether there has been any enthusiasm, which would induce men of common sense to enlist for five dollars a month, who could have fifteen when they pleased by sea or for common work at land? There has been no rational plan that I have seen as yet formed for the maintenance of the army. One thing I know, that Regiments are costly articles everywhere and more so in this Country than in any other under the sun. If this nation sees a great army to maintain without an enemy to fight, there may arise an enthusiasm, that seems to be little foreseen. At present there is no more prospect of seeing a French army here, than there is in heaven.'" McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

tive, where then lay a Power to dispense with, or suspend it? I will go no farther however on this point; perhaps I have gone too far already; but as you have not only authorised, but requested that I would communicate my sentiments to you with freedom and candour, I could not restrain this effusion while I acknowledge, and have declared upon all *proper* occasions, that you were not responsible for the delay in organizing the Army; as you have been informed in my last letter.

In the case of Major Gibbs, I shall make but two short remarks. 1st. that it was not from any predilection to the man that he was brought forward by the Board of Genl. Officers; and 2d. that I should have thought, that the testimony of Generals Lincoln, Knox, Brooks, Jackson and others, added to the weight of that board, would have been a counterpoise to the objectioners; unless something injurious to his character was adduced. But with respect to young Mercer's promotion, I cannot but express my regrets; notwithstanding the high opinion I have of his merit, and the sincere regard I entertained for his deceased father. This promotion, you may rely on it, is radically wrong; and will be felt sorely. Although no one is less disposed than I am to call in question the right of the President to make appointments (with the participation of the Senate) yet I must be permitted to add, that if there is not a good deal of circumspection observed in the exercise of it, as it respects the regulation of the Army, he will find it much easier to plunge into, than to extricate himself from, embarassments occasioned by injudicious arrangements; of this, I can speak from the experience I have had.

In the arrangement of Mr. Mercer at Philadelphia, his comparative pretensions were duly considered, and a Lieutenancy was conceived to be a handsome appointment for him. Many applications for Captaincies of Dragoons, from meritorious

characters, who had had Commands in the horse on the Western Expedition in 1794, could not, from the smallness of that Corps be accommodated; and on that acct. *only* turned over to the Infantry. Among these a Captn. Thos. Turner, highly spoken of as a horse Officer, and a very respectable character, is numbered. How then must this Gentleman; how must Captn. Randolph, so highly recommended by Genl. Morgan for past services; how must others, who served through a winter's Campaign on that occasion with eclat; and how must the Senior Lieutenants of equal pretensions with those of Mr. Mercer, feel on the appointment of a Student just from College, in preference to them? The question is easily answered; but, as there is no remedy for it *now,* my only motive for dwelling on the case, is to shew you how necessary precaution is, in your Military movemts; and to prove moreover, that after five weeks diligent application of the three first Officers of your Army, their work ought not to be battered down by sinester, or local considerations, unless impeachments, or discoveries unknown, while they were about it, are of sufficient weight to affect this measure.[45]

Having now gone through all the points of your last letters, I have only to declare that the observations I have made on the several parts of them, and the opinions delivered thereon proceed from the purest motives; and from an earnest desire that

[45] Hamilton's letter (May 3) describes this situation: "It is said that the President has heretofore not thought it of importance to accelerate the raising of the army; and it is well understood that the Secretary of the Treasury is not convinced of its utility. Yet he affirms that, for a long time past, he has been ready and willing to give every aid depending on his department. . . . The officers for North Carolina have been appointed. No nomination has yet come forward from South Carolina. Not a single field Officer has yet been appointed for the Regiment to be raised in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island. It seems the members of Congress dissuaded from the nomination of those, who were proposed by the General Officers and promised to recommend preferable characters; but this promise has not been performed. This want of organization is an obstacle to the progress of the affairs of this Regiment. It is understood that the President has resolved to appoint the Officers of the provisional army, and that the Secretary has thought fit to charge the *Senators* of each state with the designation of characters." Hamilton's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

the Military system may be well composed; may harmonize in all its parts; may perfectly answer the end of its Institution, and that the President and Secretary of War may find no difficulty, but be quite easy and happy in their government of it. As it respects myself, I have no object seperated from the general welfare, to promote. I have no predilections, no prejudices to gratify; No friends whose interests or views I wish to advance at the expence of propriety, and I may add in the sincerity of my heart, there is no wish of it equal to that of their being no exigency in our Affrs. which may call me from retirement to take the direction of our forces. With sincere esteem etc.

In the hands of an English Gentleman lately at this place, I have seen a Map of the United States on a large Scale, Edited by A. Arrowsmith, London. It is very necessary the Commander in Chief should be possessed of such an one. If the Public will not furnish it (in a travelling case) I would wish to have one sent me at my own expence, if to be procured in Philadelphia.[46]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, April 24, 1799.

Dear Sir: This letter and its enclosure, will be presented to you by Mr. George Peter,[47] whose wishes I made known to you in a former letter. He is Son to Mr. Robert Peter of George Town, and as far as my information goes, is an amiable young man.

His former application pointed more particularly to the Cavalry, but he is equally willing to receive an appointment

[46] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

[47] Peter was commissioned a lieutenant in the Ninth Infantry in July, 1799, and honorably discharged in June, 1800.

in the Infantry. His appearance is much in his favour and as he proposes to wait on you in person I shall only add that I am etc.

*To THE MR. CHICHESTERS

Mount Vernon, April 25, 1799.

Gentlemen: I shall be obliged to you, or either of you, who may be in the practice of hunting, or driving Deer on my land, for desisting from that practice.

My Lands have been Posted, according to Law, many years; and never has, nor while I possess them, will be revoked. Besides this, in order to have the notification better understood by those who bordered on me, I had (as you will perceive by the enclosed copy thereof) a number of hand bills struck and put up at my Mill and other places, to prevent the plea of want of information, that such trespasses were disagreeable to me.

I have been at much expence, and was at a good deal of trouble, to procure Deer, both of the Country and English kind; and have never yet killed one for my own table, altho' they come into my yard and Gardens, while they are hunted and destroyed by others; and often driven, wounded and maimed into the river by me [*sic*], and have been found drifted on the shores.

I had them once in a Paddock, but during my absence the fencing was neglected, and getting out, they have run at large ever since. The old ones are now partly wild, and partly tame; their descendant are more wild, but associate with them; and seldom go beyond the limits of my own woodland. But admitting they exceed these, the English deer, more especially, are very distinguishable by the darkness of their colour, and their horns; and I should have hoped, that upon the principle of doing as one would be done by, they would not have been injured by my Neighbours.

You must be sensible, that at the stand where I receive the most injury, you can have no right to hunt; for between Mr. Chichester's fence (which is close to my line) and the tenement of the Widow Gray, there is no woodland but what belongs to Mr. Fairfax or myself; and unless that Gentleman has changed his sentiments very materially of late, he, equally with myself, is averse to having his Lands of Belvoir driven for Deer.

I should not have supposed then, had there not been strong evidence to the contrary, that any Gentleman would poach upon the grounds, and on the rights of another, contrary to Law, and to repeated admonition.

After this notice, as it respects my own Land, and request that you will desist from further injury to my Game, I persuade myself that I shall not, in future, have cause to complain; nor be under the disagreeable necessity of resorting to other means for the preservation of it. I am etc.

*To LUDWELL LEE

Mount Vernon, April 26, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your occupation on Wednesday last, put it out of my power to speak to you with out giving interruption to more important business than I am now about to communicate.

Having good information that some land which I hold on four mile run was much depredated on, I went up some short time ago to run round the Lines, and found the fact to be as reported; but not being able to ascertain all the Corners, and those holding the adjacent Lands not being present, I forbore to re-mark any of the lines;[48] but being desirous of doing this, and meeting with all the parties at the Election, Monday next

[48] A facsimile of Washington's survey of this Four Mile Run tract is published in *The George Washington Atlas*, pl. 21 (Washington: 1932), edited by Lawrence Martin.

is fixed upon for this purpose; who have engaged to meet me at the beginning Corner of Adams's Patent (under which I hold) by nine o'clock on that morning; where, and when, being informed that you have Land adjoining mine, I should be glad to meet you. As you may not know where this Corner is, I shall pass a little house at the junction of the Leesburgh Road (a widows) half an hour before nine on my way. With great esteem etc.

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, April 28, 1799.

Dear Sir: Since my last I have receiv'd the Seeds which you sent me by Captn. Hand; after several fruitless enquiries after them.

There was a Manufactury of machines for raking meadows, and Harvest fields after they are cut at Kensington while I resided in Philadelphia. These are worked by a horse, and were, in my opinion a useful impliment on a Farm for expeditiously gleaning the fields of the scattered grain or Hay. I would (if now to be had) thank you for sending me one by the first Vessel bound to Alexandria.

What would well cured Shad and Herrings sell for by the Barrel in the Philadelphia Market? I have put up some this Season, and if the price would encourage it, would send you a few barrels of each to sell on Commission. Be so good as to inform me what price Wheat and Flour bear in your market. I am etc.

*To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, May 5, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have had the enclosed Tobacco note by me sometime. Too long perhaps for the best market.

If Mr. Peter (your father) whom I presume is a good judge of these matters, should be of opinion that it had better be sold *now* than wait longer, for a rise in the price of that article, I pray you to sell it for what it will fetch. I give you this trouble because the Tobacco is in the Warehouse at George Town.

Be so good as to let me know by the return of Washington Custis, if there has been any a/c received of the Sales of my Tobacco in London. and inform me at the sametime what the Stock in the Bank of Columbia divided the last half year, that I may know what to draw for. Best wishes attend you all, and I am etc.

George Town Centre W: Ho

	Mark	Gross	Fare	Nett
PB	107	1011	99	912[49]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, May 5, 1799.

Sir: This letter will be presented to you by John Tayloe Esqr., whom the President of the United States was pleased to nominate and Appoint to a Majority in the Regiment of Light Dragoons.

Mr. Tayloe waits upon you to explain his motives for declining that honor, *at present;* the propriety of which, I persuade myself you will not only acquiesce in, but applaud; as the result of laudable and Patriotic principles.

This Gentleman is a Senator in the Legislature of this State. The Politics of which you are not to be informed of. A part however of which is, to suffer no person to remain in either house thereof, nor to enjoy any Officer under Its government, who holds any Commission, or Appointment of whatsoever

[49] From the original in the possession of Walter G. Peter, of Washington, D. C.

nature or kind, under that of the General Government. The consequence then of his accepting the Military Appointment would be, the vacating of his Senatorial Office; and as he informs me, the probable introduction of an opposition Member in his place.

Mr. Tayloe's patriotism leads him to serve his Country in any capacity wherein he can be most useful; either in the Civil or Military line; and having been pleased to ask my advice on this occasion, I have frankly given it as my opinion, that under his statement, and in the present aspect of our public affairs, I thought his services in the first, that is, in the Senate, were more immediately necessary and important than they would be in the latter; because they are *now* actively employed in the one case, and may lye dormant in the other, unless hostilities on *Land* should be the result of French politics.

To this opinion he has yielded, or seems inclined to yield; with a hope however (as there may be an impropriety in keeping the vacancy open) that if the exigency of the times should render it expedient to raise more Cavalry, the service to which he is most attached, that his motives for declining his *present* appointment may not be forgotten. but aid his pretensions to, and solicitude to obtain a new one. Having requested me to relate these circumstances, it was but just I should do so; and to add, that with great respect, I am etc.

*To CALEB GIBBS

Mount Vernon, May 5, 1799.

Dear Sir: By yesterday's Mail I received your letter of the 21st. Ulto.

It is with others (if they are disposed to do it) and not for me, to account for the disappointment of your Military expectation. Your name was in the arrangement handed to the

Department of War; beyond this, you, probably, can obtain better information than it is in my power to give. But it would be uncandid after saying thus much, not to add that, it would comport neither with propriety, nor with my practice, to bring you forward again.

If the President is disposed to serve you, in addition to the Letters of recommendation with which you appeared at Phila., he has the evidence of my opinion of your Services, in the arrangement above mentioned. With esteem, I am etc.

*To JOHN TAYLOE

Mount Vernon, May 5, 1799.

Dear Sir: I received, yesterday, your favour of the 29th. Ult; and by tomorrow's Post for Baltimore, the enclosed will be dispatched, to meet you at Annapolis.

I hope the contents of it will meet your ideas. I have given these, as nearly as I could recollect them, in my communication to the Secretary of War.

With sincere pleasure I received the information of Generals Lee and Marshalls Elections.[50] Had the Majorities in their favor been greater, it would have added gout to the result. But they are Elected, and that alone is pleasing. With Mrs. Washington's compliments united with mine to Mrs. Tayloe, and with my best respects to Govr. Ogle. I am etc.

*To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, May 5, 1799.

Dear Sir: With infinite pleasure I receiv'd the news of your Election. For the honor of the District, I wish the Majority had

[50] To the House of Representatives.

been greater; but let us be content; and hope, as the tide is turning, the current will soon run strong in your favor.

I am sorry to find that the publication you allude to, should have given you a moments disquietude. I can assure you, it made no impression on my mind, of the tendency apprehended by you.[51]

The doubt you have expressed of Mr. Hancock's[52] Election, is as unexpected as it is painful. In these parts, we had set it down as certain; and our calculations went to eleven instead of nine. A few days now, will give us the result of *all* the Elections, to Congress and the Legislature of the State; and as you are at the fountain of information respecting the politics of the members, give me, I pray you, the amount of the parties on each side, if you have leisure and can ascertain them. With very sincere esteem etc.

*To BUSHROD WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, May 5, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 26th. Ulto, as also that of the 10th., have been duly received.

The Elections of Generals Lee and Marshall are grateful to my feelings. I wish however both of them had been Elected by greater majorities; but they *are Elected,* and that alone is pleasing. As the tide is turned, I hope it will come in with a full flow; but this will not happen if there is any relaxation on

[51] Marshall had written (May 1): "You may possibly have seen a paragraph in a late publication, stating that several important officers in the gift of the Executive, and among others that of secretary of state, had been attainable by me. Few of the unpleasant occurrences produced by my declaration as a candidate for congress (and they have been very abundant) have given me more real chagrin than this. To make a parade of proffered offices is a vanity, which I trust I do not possess; but to boast of one never in my power woud argue a littleness of mind at which I ought to blush." Marshall's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

[52] George Hancock, of Botetourt County, Va.

the part of the Federalists. We are sure there will be none on that of the Republicans, as they have very erroneously called themselves. It is apprehended, *latterly,* that Mr. Hancock will not carry his Election; and that in numbers we shall not exceed nine. In point of abilities, I think the majority will be greatly on the side of Federalism.

I have mentioned Mr. T. Turners name to the Secretary of War with respect that it has been handed to me; but in a letter I received from him last night, he thinks the President has given or will give, the vacant Troop to a Gentleman in another State. Our loves to Mrs. Washington. I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, May 5, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your private letter of the 29th. Ulto. was received yesterday, and requires but a short reply.

From an observation of yours, in answer to my letter of the 23d. Ulto, I perceive my meaning with respect to the settlement of *relative* Rank, has been misunderstood; or, if taken properly, I must adhere to the opinion I gave of the injustice which would be inflicted upon the Officers of States remote from the Seat of Government; if those in the vicinity of it are to *Rank* before them, because they were on the spot to announce the acceptance of their Appointments at an earlier day.

Rank and Pay are distinct things; the Officer who may have received the latter to*day,* sustains no injury from him who received it yesterday; but if the commencement of *Rank* in the same grades, is to be regulated (under the circumstances I have mentioned) from the dates of their acceptances it will have injustice stamped on the face of it: for in that case they who are

most remote, not by any act avoidable in themselves, but from the nature of things, become in almost every instance juniors; when perhaps many of them, in consideration of former Services, or other weighty pretensions might justly, be entitled to Seniority.

The mode which you have suggested to the President for settling the Rank of the field Officers, is, certainly the best that could be offered to his consideration, and I trust will be approved by him.

Let the vacancy, occasioned by the non-acceptance of Mr. Mercer be filled by whomsoever it may, I am glad he has refused it. But, in the name of common modesty, what did this young Gentleman expect? the command of the Regimt.? Upon the principle wch. governed the Board of General Officers in assigning the *present* addition to it, I think it would be injudicious to fill the Vacancy from a quarter that did not occasion it; Nor can it be better filled, I believe, than with the appointment of Turner, or Randolph, the first of whom is spoken of as possessing talents peculiarly adapted to this Service. What is the determination of Watts?[53] With very great esteem etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, May 6, 1799.

Sir: It is a point from which I have not deviated, to forward all recommendations, and applications, which have been made to me for Military appointments, to the Department of War.

In confirmation of what is said in the enclosed letters from General Morgan, and the Colonels Meade and Parker, I may

[53] Lieut. Col. John Watts, of the Light Dragoons. He was honorably discharged in June, 1800.

On May 5 Washington wrote a brief note to William Cooper, that he had referred his application for appointment in the Provisional Army to the War Department. The press copy of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

add that, the same good report of the merits of Major Lawe. Butler has, verbally, been made to me by others.[54] Although he served through the War, his person is unknown to me. This, however, is no evidence of his unfitness to fill the vacancy his friends solicit for him; because, the Virginia line of the Army, to which he belonged, was but a short time under my immediate Command.

With respect to the application of Rowland Cotton, through the medium of Mr. Cooper, I have only to add that, the Applicant and Recommender (if it is the Cooper who was in Congress) are as well known to you, as they are to Sir, Your etc.

*To DANIEL MORGAN

Mount Vernon, May 10, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have just received a letter from the Secretary of War, in which (after giving it as the opinion of the President of the United States, that Officers for the twenty four additional Regiments ought to be had in contemplation; that, in case the exigency of our Affairs should require them, greater dispatch might be used in the formation) is the Extract which follows.

The selection of Officers for the eventual Army appears to be an object of primary importance, requiring all imaginary circumspection and care; their characters ought, if possible, to be such as to inspire a general and well grounded confidence that the fate of their country may be safely intrusted to them.

I have, therefore, to request you will accord your full attention to the subject, and furnish me as soon as practicable with a list of the names of such characters in your State to fill the annexed military grades, as in your opinion, are best qualified, and willing to serve in case of an actual War, which will render it indispensable to recruit Men for this Army.

[54] Butler had been commissioned first major, Eighth Infantry, in April, 1799. He was honorably discharged in June, 1800.

Every cautionary measure is necessary to guard against errors in appointmts. which too frequently result from the ease with which recommendations are generally obtained, the partialities of friends, and a delusive hope that men of bad habits, by being transplanted into the army will become men, and good Officers.

The Officers proposed to be drawn from the State of Virginia are (viz)

Four Colonels	One Colonel
Eight Majors	Two Majors
Forty Captains, and	Eleven Captains, and
Eighty Subaltns. of Infy.	22 Subns. of Cavalry

In making the Selection, it will be proper to allow, if fit characters present themselves for a choice, a due proportion of Captains and Subalterns to the several counties, according to their respective population, as well with a view to facilitate the recruiting Service as to give general satisfaction; this rule, however, is not meant to be so invariable observed as to exclude great superiority of talents, by too strict an adherence.

As circumstances may exist at the time of the Presidents making the appointmts. which may render it proper to make some changes in the list with which I may be furnished, you are requested not to give the Parties recommended, such positive assurances as will render a change impracticable without wounding, too sensibly, their feelings.

Having given you these Extracts, so fully, but little remains for me to add, further than to request your aid in carrying the Secretary's views into effect, conformably to the principles he has laid down; and that you will consider my application to you, as an evidence of my confidence in your knowledge of characters (especially of the old and meritorious Officers of the Virginia line), of your patriotism, and willingness to form a respectable Corps of Officers for our native State.

I have no objection to your conversing with Colo. Parker; or others on whom you can place reliance; on this occasion. Letting it be clearly understood, however, that the enquiry, and Selection here proposed, is eventual only, not as a thing actual

resolved on, but preparatory, in case the President in the recess of Congress should, from the aspect of things, deem it expedient to carry the Law for raising twenty four Regiments into effect.

That you may be enabled, better to understand that part of the Secretary's letter, wch. relates to the distribution of Officers to counties, I enclose you the Inspector Generals allotmt. of the States into divisions and Subdivisions, for the convenience of recruiting and rendesvousing in each.

Hoping that you continue to improve in your health, I remain with very sincere esteem, etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To JOHN MARSHALL, EDWARD CARRINGTON AND WILLIAM HETH

Mount Vernon, May 12, 1799.

Gentlemen: Although the letter, of which the enclosed is a copy, is of old date,[55] it has but just been received from the Secretary of War, a reason has been assigned for it.

Without aid, it will be impossible for me to carry his views into effect; which, and the confidence I place in you, is the best apology I can make for asking you to assist me, in the business required.

I have, with the exception of short intervals, been so many years absent from this State; and so little from my own home while in it, that, I am as little acquainted with present characters, a few excepted, as almost any man in it; and, alone, as incompetent to a judicious selection of Officers to the force contemplated.

The object, and principles, being sufficiently developed in the letter. Indeed being all the information I have on the subject,

[55] McHenry's letter of April 10, the original of which is in the *Washington Papers*. It is indorsed by Washington as having been received May 6.

renders it unnecessary for me to add any sentiment of my own thereto, further than that your aid in making the selection, would be beneficial in a public view, and obliging me as an individual.

No reason, that I can perceive, is opposed to the measure's being known, as a cautionary preparative for an exigency, which, eventually, may happen; and would, should it happen, save much time in the Organization, when very little could be afforded under the pressure of the occasion.

That you may want no light I can afford, I enclose also, the Inspector General's division, and Subdivision of the State into Recruiting, and Rendezvousing districts; in order that, the Secretary's idea respecting the distribution (as near as may be) of Officers to the population thereof, may have its due consideration. I forward likewise, a list of the Virginia quota of Officers for the 12 Regiments, as arranged at Philadelphia in November last; between those who have, and those who have not accepted their Appointments. With great and sincere esteem etc.

*To JAMES McALPIN

Mount Vernon, May 12, 1799.

Sir: Having heard nothing from you since my last request (now more than two Months ago) that you would complete, and send on my Uniform Suit so soon as the gold thread, which you informed me was expected in the Spring shipping, should have arrived; I give you the trouble of receiving this letter on the Subject: and to request that no unnecessary delay may prevent the accomplishment of it.

Send the cloaths in such a Portmanteau as I discribed in my former letter, and by some Person (if you can) who may be

coming *through,* to Alexandria; to be lodged at the Post Office, or Stage Office in that Town; with the Bill of cost &ca. I am etc.[56]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, May 13, 1799.

Sir: Your favour of the 2d Instt, covering your dispatches of the 10th Ultimo, was brought to me by the Messenger who carried my letters *to you* (of the 5th and 6th) to the Post Office in Alexandria.

That no time might be lost in carrying the Presidents Plan, and the request contained in your letter of the 10th. Ult, into effect, I have solicited the Aid of Generals Morgan, Lee, and Marshall, and the Colonels Heath and Carrington; if other fit and confidential characters should occur, as worthy of employment in the proposed Selection, I will speak, or write to them also; for it is on others I must rely. An absence, with short intervals only, of near twenty five years with the consequent changes, has, in a great measure, obliterated my former acquaintance with the People of *this State;* and my knowledge of the rising generation in it (scarcely ever going from home) is very limited indeed. The task I am imposing upon others is delicate, and not of the pleasantest kind: because, except in a few Instances, it will be very difficult in such an extensive State as Virginia, to ascertain who would, or would not, accept appointments in the Provisional Army without previous enquiry; and to make this enquiry on the hazardous ground of rejection, involves a *round* of delicasy. namely, to the selected, who may have given his consent; to the selector, who may have asked it;

[56] From a photostat of the original through the courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

and to the Department that is to approve, or disapprove the measure.

Viewing the matter in this light, Let me ask if there would be any impropriety in a notification from the War Office to the effect that as events may render it expedt. to raise the 24 Regiments; and it having been found from experience that much time (when probably it could be least spared) would be required to Select and organise the Officers therefor; it is requested that all those who are desirous of serving their Country on the terms Specified in that Act, would, without delay signify the same (producing such recommendations as would bring them forward under favourable auspices) with the grades, to wch. reasonable pretensions would entitle them to G W——n or whomsoever, in this (the same in other States if the measure is approved) as you might be pleased to appoint, for the purpose of receiving the Applications: which ought *all* of them to be in writing, accompanied with the testimonials of merit, as above.

In a State, spreading over so much ground as Virginia does, it would require much time, and be scarcely possible even then, to make the object of Government known, and to carry your plan of appointment to the parts into effect, by any means much short of the one I have suggested: And if the notice is not *general,* the selection must, of consequence, be *partial.*

After allowing sufficient time for the applications to come in, one might then be able with the aid of such characters as could be confided in, to select, and form from the materials thus amassed, Officers agreeably to your list, and apportionment to the State; and without, I do not see how it can be accomplished in any reasonable time, much less efficiently.

There may be objections to this mode which do not occur to me; but sure I am, it would be found the most likely mean of producing characters from all parts of the State, or failing

therein, of obviating any charge of partiality; for if men will not come forward when invited, it is their own fault, and not that of the Government.

Under any circumstances, I consider this preparatory measure of the President's, to be eligable; but I am led to believe from his having adopted it, at *this time,* without any previous intimation thereof (that has come to my knowledge) before he left the Seat of Government, that stronger indications of hostility have been received, than appeared when he went away to have occasioned it; if so, I think it ought to be communicated to me in confidence; for it must not be expected that like a Mercenary, I can quit my family and private concerns at a moments warning. There are many matters necessary for me to settle before I could leave home with any tolerable convenience, and many things, the providing of which would run me to an unnecessary expence, if I am not called to the Field.

And this conjecture, leads me to the consideration of another matter, of very serious importance. It is well known that the great advantage which the Armies of France have over those they contend with, lyes in the Superiority with which their Artillery is served, and in the skill of their Engineers. Let me entreat, therefore, that the most prompt and pointed attention be given to the procuring, and instructing, men in these Sciences. Lamentable indeed must be our case, if we shall have to acquire the knowledge of these arts in the face of an enemy, when *that* Enemy ought to experience our Skill in the exercise of them. I do not mean to *recommend* characters as instructors in these branches; but I will mention the names of some who have passed through my mind, and have been recalled to it. Du Portail, Lamoy, Senf, Rivardi, and Latrobe. The last of whom I know nothing of, but have been told that he has knowledge *in,* and professes to be well acquainted with, the

principles of Engineering. I notice these as persons within your reach, in case nothing better can be done. It is necessary to be provident. Let us not have things to prepare, when they should be in use.

To enable me to carry your request into execution, I ought to be informed, who of the Virginia arrangement have accepted appointments; who have refused; and from whom you have received no answer. Many whose expectations were not answered in the last organization, and on that account declined, might be gratified on the present occasion with propriety, possible frm. necessity. With respect, etc.[57]

*To WILLIAM B. HARRISON

Mount Vernon, May 16, 1799.

Sir: I have given the proposition you have made me, respecting your part of Chapel land, all the consideration that is necessary; the result of which is.

That I will give, as a Rent, thirty dollars for every hundred acres within the bounds you shall establish; and in that proportion for the overplus, or odd acres, according to measurement: Provided I receive a Lease for the whole quantity, for the term and time of fifteen years; And provided also, that at any time within Seven years after the first rent becomes due, I shall have the priviledge of purchasing the Land in fee simple, on paying Eight dollars for each and every Acre the said tract shall contain.

Conscious as I am, that this is a generous offer for your land, and that I do not want to possess it either in fee simple or on Lease for one iota below its real value; conscious also, that in the ordinary course of things (there being nothing within

[57] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

itself) to support and keep it up, that it must grow worn and worse every year; and persuaded moreover, that you, and every other discerning mind, must view it in this light, it is unnecessary, especially after the conversation which has passed between us, to assign my reasons for this opinion in full detail.

The Rent I offer is equal to any that is paid for such Lands in the neighbourhood, as you would have learnt from Mr. Mason; and might learn from my Tenant Mrs. Gray (on the same Land); and was it not that I make no Tobacco, probably never shall, and of course, for the uncertainty of knowing what sum to provide (from the fluctuating price of that article) I wd. as soon give the Rents you receive at present, as what I offer, on a thorough conviction that in *point of Interest,* I should gain by it. And sure I am no man who is a judge of Land and will view the condition of and what is *on* yours, will say, that to obtain it in fee, I have not offered the value of it. With respect to the vague, speculation, and unmeaning offers of men who have not where withal to fulfil an engagement, and do not mean (more than probable) to do it, at the time such engagement is entered into, I pay no sort of regard. You, probably, would get into embarrassments with such men by an *ideal instead* of a *real* price for your property, and I get it thereafter on betr. terms. If you think this proposition of mine worth your attention, I shall be ready at any time to enter on the detail and to carry it into effect, being Sir Your etc.

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, May 20, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 2d instant by Captn. Bowcock came safe, as the Corn did, in good order; and I should have written to you by his return but the Vessel went from the

Landing at which she delivered the Corn unknown to me. But not without the Whiskey and Fish; as I had, previously, directed these to be shipped.

The first I hope you will find good, if no pranks are played with it; Mr. Anderson (my Manager) having assured me that he could vouch for it. The latter was among the quantity I had put up for my own use, and hope is not bad.

The money for the Corn shall be ready at your call, be that when it may; but if you have no immediate use for it, it wd. be an accomodation to me to suffer it to remain in my hands until there is, for I have been disappointed in *every* sum I expected to receive, and am obliged to borrow, at the Bank of Alexandria (on disadvantageous terms) to fulfil my engagements; and will do the same to answer your call, whenever it is made. Only requesting a postponement so long as it comports *perfectly* with your own convenience.

We had heard of your intended Nuptials, and congratulate you on the consummation of them; and with your lady and family, shall always be happy to see you at this place. The Election of Generals Lee and Marshall to Congress are pleasing Events. The Representation from this State will be much strengthened thereby. The regret is, that there was not more of their politics sent. The reflection however, that we are gaining strength must console us for the present, and stimulate Federal men to greater exertions in future. With much sincerity, I am etc.

To HENRY KNOX

Mount Vernon, May 22, 1799.

Dear Sir: Ralph Wormeley Esqr. (who will present this letter to you) carries one of his Sons to Harvard College, to be fixed there as a Student. Being a Stranger in the New England

States, I beg leave to introduce him to your Acquaintance and civilities.

He is a Gentleman of respectability in his own State; A friend to the Constitution and Government of the Union; and a person of Information; qualifications which, I persuade myself, will insure him a ready reception with you.

Present Mrs. Washington's best regards along with mine, to Mrs. and Miss Knox; and be assured of the sincere and Affectionate esteem etc. [H.L.]

To THOMSON MASON

Mount Vernon, May 24, 1799.

Sir: I mean to renew the outer fence, on the line between you and me, and in a manner more substantial than usual.

Mr. Anderson will explain the method by wch. I proposed to accomplish this, to you, and ask your leave to profit by your Ditch, and present fence: which can be attended with no temporary inconvenience to yourself and may, ultimately, be of singular advantage to you, as well as myself; as my fence may subserve your purposes as well as my own. With esteem etc.[58]

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, May 24, 1799.

My dear Sir: The enclosed was written (as you will perceive by the Superscription) to go by General Lee; who, four days ago appointed to be here on his return to Westmoreland, but is not yet arrived. In the meantime, your second letter by Captn. Bowcock (dated the 20th. instant) has been received.

[58] From the printed text in *George Washington and Mount Vernon,* Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

When the enclosed was written I thot. the whiskey had been sent; but Captn. Bowcock postponed taking it on board it seems, until he made his second trip. Now, he has two barrels according to your desire; and if you should want *more,* or any of your neighbors want *any,* it would be convenient, and always in my power, to supply you, and for grain, wheat, Rye or Indian Corn in exchange.

If you are in the habit of laying in Fish, as provision for your black people, as I do, and do not catch them at your own landings, I could supply you every year, and on as good terms as you could get them elsewhere; and for these also, from you, or others, I would receive grain in payment.

Captn. Bowcock has delivered more Corn than he received from you; of which Mr. Anderson, my Manager, will give you the a/c; as he will also do of the whiskey; the Barrel of Fish you will please to accept. My best respects and Congratulations, in which My wife joins, are offered to Mrs. Washington and yourself on your Marriage. We shall always be glad to see you at this place. With sincere regard and Affection etc.[59]

*To GOUVERNEUR MORRIS

Mount Vernon, May 26, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your favor of the 9th Instant from Newark, came duly to hand.

I offer you my sincere congratulations on your safe return to the United States: It is unnecessary I hope to add, that if either business or inclination should induce you to look towds the South, that I shall be very happy to see you at this Seat of my retirement; where I rather hope, than expect, to spend the rem-

[59] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

nant of my life in tranquillity; if one may judge from the appearance of both external, and internal causes. which present themselves to our present view.

Mrs. Washington is thankful for your kind remembrance of her, and unites in best wishes for you, with Your etc.

*To REVEREND JEDIDIAH MORSE

Mount Vernon, May 26, 1799.

Revd. Sir: I thank you for your Sermon "Exhibiting the present dangers, and consequent duties of the Citizens of the United States of America" which came to hand by the last Post: and which I am persuaded I shall read with approbating pleasure, as soon as some matters on which I am engaged at present, are dispatch'd. With esteem etc.

*To JAMES WELCH

Mount Vernon, May 26, 1799.

Sir: I was not disappointed in the contents of your letter of the 16th. instant, because I had formed no hope from the proposed application at Fredericksburgh.

Inconvenient, and indeed distressing as it is to me to lay out of the money you were obligated to pay me the first of the present year, and to receive which was the *only* inducement that led to the Bargain which exists between us for my lands on the Great Kanhawa, yet, rather than resort to the means by which I could do myself justice, at the present moment, I will wait with patience and confidence, for the payment you have promised to make in November ensuing. After which, do not expect further endulgence from Sir Yr. etc.

PS. I request to be informed with precision of the number, and names of the Tenants you have placed on the Land; the

quantity each is to hold, and what Rent they are to pay; I request also to know what others you have engaged, and what prospect you have of more.

*To WILLIAM RUSSELL

Mount Vernon, May 26, 1799.

Sir: Your favor of the 11th instant from New York, has been received; and the articles therein alluded to got safe to hand yesterday, for which I pray you to accept my grateful thanks. The Ram, though poor, seems to be in good health, and being turned into as good Pasture as the backwardness of the Season would admit, will, I have no doubt, soon recover his flesh. His wool, and other appearances bespeak him a valuable Animal. The other articles shall be applied to the uses they are designed; and will, I have no doubt, be found to answer. All have come to hand in good Season. For your further kind intention respecting the imported Swine, I feel much obliged; and if you should be so successful as to get into a *full Stock*, would thank you for a pair; as I have a Distillery at which I rear many Hogs. But how, my good Sir, am I to repay all this kindness? In any thing, you may freely Command. Yr. etc.

*To REVEREND WILLIAM WHITE

Mount Vernon, May 30, 1799.

Revd. and Dear Sir: The Sermon on the duty of Civil obedience as required in Scripture, which you had the goodness to send me, came safe a Post or two ago; and for which I pray you to accept my grateful acknowledgments.

The hurry in which it found me engaged, in a matter that pressed, has not allowed me time to give it a perusal yet: but I

anticipate the pleasure and edification I shall find when it is in my power to do it.

With every respectful wish, in which Mrs. Washington unites, for yourself and the young ladies of your family, I am with great esteem etc.

* To DOCTOR CHARLES BUXTON[60]

Mount Vernon, May 30, 1799.

Sir: The last Post *only,* brought me (through the medium of the War Departmt) your polite and obliging favor of the 27th. Ulto accompanied with two proof Prints elegantly executed (one of Satten) engraved from your emblematical Picture, designed to perpetuate the idea of the American Revolution.

For this instance of your kind attention to me, I pray you to accept my grateful acknowledgments. And was not the late President of the United States a conspicuous character in the Piece I might say more than would now become me of the fruitfulness of the Design.

If business, or inclination should ever induce you to make a tour to the Southward, I shall hope to see you at this seat of my retirement. I regret, as you do, the death of our mutual friend Doct. Bard.[61] And am etc.[62]

To WILLIAM THORNTON

Federal City, June 1, 1799.

Sir: In replying to your favor of yesterday's date, I must beg leave to premise that, when I left the Chair of Government it

[60] Of Perth Amboy, N. J.

[61] Dr. John Bard.

[62] From the press copy. The letter sent is said to be owned by Miss Bessie Pope, of Jersey City, N. J.

was with a determination not to intermeddle in any public matter which did not immediately concern me; and that I have felt no Disposition since to alter this Determination.

But as you have requested that I would give you my Ideas on a certain point, which seems to have occupied the attention of the Board of Commissioners, and on which I presume my Letters to that Body (whilst I had the honor to administer the Government) have not been so clear and explicit as it was my Intention to be, I have no hesitation in declaring (unless I have entirely forgotten all recollection of the fact) that it has always been my invariable opinion, and remains still to be so, that no departure from the *Engraved* plan of the City ought to be allowed, unless *imperious* necessity should require it, or some great public good is to be promoted thereby.

Minor Considerations contribute to this opinion; but the primary, and to my mind an unanswerable one, is, that after the original plan (with some Alterations) had been adopted; ordered to be engraved and published; and was transmitted to *several,* if not to *all* our public Agents abroad, for the purpose of inviting purchasers; that it would, for reasons too obvious and cogent to require illustration, be deceptious to lay off Lots for *private purposes,* where none appeared in a plan, which was intended to inform, aid, and direct the Judgment of Foreigners, and others, who could not, on the premises, make a choice.

It is not difficult to form an opinion of the ways of thinking, and views of others, by ones own, under similar Circumstances; I shall declare then without reserve, that if I had made choice of a Site for a House on an open Area in the published map, occasioned by the intersection of Avenues, and an Angle thereof should afterwards be filled up, in a manner I might not approve, I should not scruple to complain of both the deception and injury.

But I am straying from my purpose, which was no more than simply to say (if I am not, as beforementioned, greatly forgetful) that I have never had but one opinion on this Subject, and that is, that nothing ought to justify a Departure from the engraved plan, but the probability of some great public Benefit, or unavoidable necessity. With great esteem etc.[63] [C. L.]

*To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, June 5, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your favor of the 20th Ulto. from Mulberry Grove, came duly to hand, and would have received an earlier acknowledgment had I not allowed time for the completion of your visit to the Frontier Posts, in the State of Georgia.

I thank you for the interesting details you took the trouble of communicating in that letter, and its enclosures; but it was not, nor is it, my wish to inflict such burthensome Communications upon you. To give me a general view of the state of Military matters, and of the temper of our Neighbours on your orders; and the arrangement of the Southern Corps and prospect of filling them; Of the disposition of the Troops, and general Politicks of the three Southern (Atlantic) States, and of Tennessee (as far as you could ascertain them), is all I had in view by the request contained in my former letter; and all I mean to ask of you at present.

I am fully persuaded, my dear Sir, that your own judgment and experience in Military matters would be but little assisted by any advice that is in my power to give you; I feel, nevertheless, the compliment which your asking of it conveys.

[63] From a copy in Thornton's writing.

Your letter to Captn. Presley Thornton I delivered with my own hands. He is grateful for the honor you have conferred, and will himself (as I presume he has, or will inform you, by letter) of his readiness to obey your Orders at any time, or in any manner, you may find it expedient to communicate them to him. You will, I trust, find him an honorable man; none was ever more so than his father; and those who are better acquainted with his conduct than I am, say, the son inherits the fathers virtues.

Of those matters which you have communicated to the Secretary of War, I shall say nothing. It rests with him to decide on them; to do which, you have furnished him with clear and ample details, as appears by the copies thereof sent me.

Mrs. Washington is thankful to you for the Melon seeds you had the kindness to send her, and unites with me in best wishes for you, Mrs. Pinckney and the young ladies; and with sincere esteem etc.

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, June 6, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 18th and 21st. Ulto. have been duly received.

In reply to them, so far as it respects the raking machines, I agree perfectly with Mr. I: Williams, that they will not answr. on Stoney, stumpy, or rough land of any kind, for the reason he has assigned; but I am equally well persuaded, that on level and smooth land (which for the most part my fields are) they would be found useful impliments on a Farm. If then, the Inventor and maker of them has removed from Philadelphia, and Mr. Williams, or any other Gentleman who has suffered the one he possesses, to be dis-used; will part with it; and it is susceptible of complete repairs; I would buy it; provided I

could have it (in the usual course of passages) at this place by the 10th of next month; without which it would render me no service this, and might be unnecessary another year..

Having what little flour I made still on hand; Perceiving by the Gazettes, and an Arrette of Roume and Touissant that the Trade to St. Domingo is encouraged; and that Dispatches have been received from Mr. Stevens our Consul; permit me to ask what effect this event has had, or is likely to have, on the price of that article. Two motives lead to the enquiry, at the present moment; first, the approaching heats will render it ineligable to keep flour on hand much if any longer; and secondly, because the Merchants in this quarter either do, or affect to, believe, that the Ports of that Island will not be opened, or that we shall derive no benefit from the above mentioned Arrette. I will decide nothing untill I hear from you. with great esteem etc.[64]

To JOHN CROPPER[65]

Mount Vernon, June 6, 1799.

Sir: The Secretary of War has signified to me . . .[66]

As it is desireable that this selection, particularly of the Captains and Subalterns, should be made from different parts of the State, observing, as far as may be, a due proportion to the respective population. And as my absence from home for almost twenty years, with short intervals only, has deprived me of the opportunity of obtaining a personal knowledge of the Citizens of this State, in the different and distant parts of it, and particularly of the rising generation, I must resort, for

[64] From a photostat obtained through the kindness of Samuel M. Wilson, of Lexington, Ky., from the original owned by Mrs. A. J. A. Alexander, of Spring Station, Woodford County, Ky.

[65] He had been a lieutenant colonel in the Virginia line in the Continental Army.

[66] The part here omitted is identical with the second paragraph in Washington's letter to John Cropper, June 17, 1799, *q. v.*

information, to others, on whose judgements, patriotism and sincerity I can place a reliance.

I have, therefore, thought it best to address myself to such Characters as I conceive are properly qualified to command the respective Regiments designated to Virginia, and whose Interest in the Welfare of our Country, and attachment to its Government, will, I am persuaded, induce them to step forward in its defence in the hour of danger; and to request that they will furnish me with a list of the names of such persons as are qualified to fill the grades of Majors, Captains and Subalterns in their respective Regiments, and who would be willing to serve in them, should they be appointed, annexing to their names the several grades and their places of Residence.

Upon this ground, Sir, may I be permitted to give in your name as one who is willing to take the Command of a Regiment in the Provisional Army, if you should be appointed thereto?

As you will readily see that the present selection of Characters, to fill these offices, will be handed to the President of the United States for his approbation, and must afterwards be confirmed or rejected by the Senate; it is therefore proper that no assurances of *appointment* be given to the parties, which will render a change impracticable without wounding, their feelings too sensibly. And, under the like impression, you will be pleased, Sir, to receive this application to yourself.

Where you are not personally well acquainted with such Characters as are fit and willing to serve you will be so good as to obtain the best recommendations, and such as you can rely upon. And every cautionary measure is necessary to guard against errors which frequently result from the ease with which recommendations are generally obtained, the partiality of friends, and a delusive hope that men of bad habits, by being

transplanted into the Army, will become good men, and good Officers.

In order to facilitate the selection . . .[67]

From this division you will be pleased to furnish me with the names of persons, as before mentioned, to fill the Offices of two Majors, ten Captains, ten first and ten second Lieutenants. And, in addition thereto, I will thank you for the names of any Characters, out of your division, with whose qualifications for any of these offices you may be acquainted, and who, you have reason to think, would be willing to accept appointments; as my object is to collect all the information I can from every source on which I can rely.

You will be pleased, Sir, to acknowledge the Receipt of this letter as soon as it gets to your hands, and let me know if you are willing yourself to accept the Command herein mentioned, should you be appointed. And in case you are disposed to take this task upon yourself, which I sincerely hope you may do, I pray you to furnish me with the list before mentioned as soon as you can. And whether you accept it or not, you will much oblige me by recommending such Characters for the several offices, as, in your opinion, are fit and willing to serve. With very great esteem etc.[68]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, June 6, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favoured with your letters of the 11th, 19th and 21st of last Month, with their inclosures.

Referring to my letter of the 13th ultimo for the reasons which prevented my having a personal knowledge of such

[67] The part here omitted is practically the same as that in Washington's letter to John Cropper, June 17, 1799, *q. v.*

[68] In the writing of Tobias Lear. This letter was not sent to Cropper. (See Washington's letter to John Marshall, June 16, 1799, *post.*)

Characters in Virginia, as may be proper to be selected for Officers in the eventual or provisional Army, and having shewn therein the difficulties which would arise from the extent of this state, and that, in order to obtain the necessary information, I must solicit the aid of others in whom confidence could be placed, I enclose you an extract from a letter I have received from General Marshall, and of one from Genl. Lee, in answer to letters I had written to them on this subject. From these you will see that I have but little hope of aid from those quarters. And as in your letter of the 19th ultimo, you have stated the objections to a public Official Advertisement for bringing forward such Characters as might wish to obtain Commissions, I shall still pursue the object in such a manner as I conceive best calculated to answer the purpose, notwithstanding the delicacy of the task which, as I hinted to you in my letter abovementioned, I should be obliged to impose on others, as well as the unpleasant situation into which I may myself be brought, by raising expectations which may not be realized.

When I mentioned in my last the names of several persons acquainted with Engineering &ca. I did not mean, as I then observed, to *recommend* them; but spoke of them merely as passing through my mind. At any rate I should think it improper to employ a Frenchman in that important station, at *this* time.

By a letter which I lately received from General Pinckney, I have reason to believe that Colo. Senf would accept the appointment you mention; but whether he possess all the requisites and qualifications necessary for a person at the head of the Corps of Engineers, would be first proper to be ascertained: And would it not be well also to know if Major Rivardi, who is now in the service, and who is said to have been educated particularly for this branch, is not as well qualified as Senf? And if so, should he not have a preference as being already in the service?

I know nothing of the comparative merits or qualifications of these Gentlemen, and have no particular partiality for the one or the other. I merely suggest these things for your consideration, knowing how highly important it is to have the best qualified men we can get in that line.

The enclosed letters, containing applications for appointments to fill such offices as may become vacant, in the present establishment, from non-acceptance or resignation, I have thought proper to transmit to you. Such as may come to my hands for appointments in the provisional Army I shall retain until the selection of Officers for that Army shall be made from this State.

The letter from Major George Lewis shews his disappointment in not having had his name brought forward at an earlier day. He did not apply to me at that time; because he knew that I had always felt a delicacy in bringing into public Office any of my own relations. I confess, however, that I regretted not seeing his name on the list which was laid before the General Officers in Philadelphia; because I knew him to be a valuable Officer, and believed that he had a predeliction for the Service. In justice to his application I must say, that I think he deserves attention. He served with reputation in the Revolutionary War, and [commenced] the oldest Captain in Colo. Baylor's Regiment of Cavalry; [but marrying, resigned before the close of it]. On the Western Expedition he commanded the Virginia Cavalry, [with the Rank of Major] and acquitted himself with honor. His age and standing in Society qualify him for the appointment which he asks. He makes no claims on the score of preeminent or superior abilities; but he is known to possess a soundness of judgment, qualifications and acquirements at least equal to the place which he wishes; and no man stands higher than he does in the esteem of those who know him, [or as a firm and steady friend to Government.]

Doctor Wellford ranks high in his profession, and his Character as a friend to the Government, and as a man of integrity, is, I believe, unimpeachable. He acted as Director of the medical Department on the Western Expedition, and gave great satisfaction. It may be proper to state, that he is a native of Great Britain, and came to this Country with the Army during the Revolutionary war. [That service] he quitted and settled in Fredericksburg, where he married into one of the most respectable families in that quarter, and has resided there ever since.

I perceive, by the list which you sent me of the Officers in this State who had accepted or declined their appointments, that the name of Captn. Thomas Turner was among the latter. I have lately seen this Gentleman, who informs me, that, having a strong predeliction for the Cavalry, he had applied for an appointmt. in that Corps, and that he had declined his appointment in the Infantry, because he was not acquainted with its duties, and had no turn for that kind of service.

I see also, by the aforesaid list, that there was one of the Captaincies in Cavalry vacant. If this is not yet filled, I think, from the Character I have heard of Capt Turner, he would supply that place with Credit. At any rate, I presume it will be supplied with an Officer from this State, as the Troop is to be raised here.

With due respect and consideration etc.[69]

To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, June 6, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 16th ultimo has been duly received, and I sincerely hope it will be in the power of yourself

[69] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress. The words in brackets in the draft (in Lear's writing in the *Washington Papers*) are in the writing of Washington, and his spelling, etc., are here followed.

and the other gentlemen, whom I addressed on the subject, to aid me in making a selection of proper Characters to fill the Offices in those Regiments which are allotted to Virginia; for, from the causes which I mentioned in my former letter, I find I must rely for information on others who are better acquainted with the people of this State than I am; and as there are many desireable points to be combined in those who may be selected, particularly for the higher grades, I can apply only to those in whom I place the highest confidence.

In contemplating the subject I have thought it best to follow the four grand Divisions of the State, as laid off by the Inspector General in his arrangements for recruiting. From each of these to select a proper Character for the command of a Regiment, and to request him to furnish me with the names of such persons, in his division, as are fit and willing to fill the other grades.

Enclosed is a letter which I have written to this effect to Colo. Cropper of the Eastern Shore, who, I am told is a person every way qualified to command a Regiment, and who would do credit to the service by his acceptance. I leave it open for the perusal of yourself, Colo. Carrington and Colo. Heth, If you should see no objection, I pray you to seal, direct and forward it; for I do not know the particular part of the Country in which Colo. Cropper lives.

Altho these divisions are marked out for a Regiment each; yet I should not feel myself confined particularly to those limits for the officers of each regiment, if more suitable Characters offer themselves in others.

Major or Colo. Menise (I spell this name as it is pronounced, I do not know whether it is correct or not. It is the gentleman who was on the Grand Jury when Mr Cabell's letter was noticed by them, and who afterwards published a piece in answer to Mr. Cabell on that subject.) has been recommended to me

as a person well qualified to command one of the Regiments, as well from his former services as from his present Character. I must beg the favor of yourself, Colo. Carrington and Colo. Heth for whom also this letter is intended, to let me know his place of Residence and your opinions. Should Colo. Cropper and this gentleman be selected and willing to serve, two of the Districts will be provided with Colonels, vizt. The Eastern Shore District, and that on the So. side of James River. For the other two, vizt. the Middle Country from Rapahannock to James River, and from the Blue Ridge to the Ohio. Provision must yet be made; and I shall be much obliged by your furnishing me with the names of such Characters from these Divisions as are suitable for the higher grades, and any others that you may be able to point out. The Colonels giving in the name of those who are fit and willing to serve in their respective Regiments will assist much in the detail. I should wish, notwithstanding, to get all the information I can from other sources also.

You will oblige me by letting me hear from you on this subject as soon as is convenient. With very great esteem etc.

P. S. I will thank you to let me know the Character of Genl. Porterfield[70] of Augusta as to his fitness to command a Regiment, his politics &ca. If he is thought qualified and will accept another of the Divisions will be provided for.[71]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, June 6, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 3d of May, and am glad to find that the recruiting service is likely to

[70] Robert Porterfield.

[71] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

progress without further delay. [To facilitate this, nothing will contribute more than Clothing.]

It is certainly necessary to push on the business with proper energy, and to be provided with an ample and timely supply of every article wanted, if it is expected that such Troops as we have, should be, in any degree, respectable. This, I trust, will be done. And I should hope, 'ere this, that the field Officers for the Regiment to be raised in New Hampshire &c. have been appointed.

It is very desireable that the selection of Characters to officer the Regiments, eventually to be raised, should be such as will do credit to the service, if they should be called into the field. The Secretary of War has requested me to furnish him with a list of names for the quota from Virginia, which I am taking measures to do; but, owing to my long absence from this State, I have so little personal knowledge of Characters, that I must rely very much on the information of others in whom I can confide. With very sincere regard etc.[72]

*To WILLIAM H. FOOTE

Mount Vernon, June 7, 1799.

Sir: In searching old Memos., I found notes of which the enclosed is a Copy. I was uncertain at the time of running the meanders of the run, on which side the body of the water went, of course, as the Run is the boundary, it was then, and still may be, uncertain, to whom the Island belongs. But if my memory serves me, I think it was claimed by George Ashford; and the courses will, I believe, comprehend it. That Survey however,

[72] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. The sentence in brackets in the draft, in the *Washington Papers,* was in pencil and in the writing of Washington, but was, later, inked over by Lear.

being a private one, made for my own satisfaction, can have no binding effect on the adjacent owner.

It will, of course, be recollected, that as my Survey of the Meanders of the Run was made near 30 years ago, that a considerable variation (perhaps two degrees) have taken place since. I am etc.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, June 7, 1799.

My dear Sir: When I began the enclosed letter[73] (left open for your perusal) I intended to address it to Colo. Biddle; who transacts all matters of that sort for me in Philadelphia; but as I wrote on, it occurred that, possibly, the Quarter Master might be a more appropriate character to accomplish my order: for this reason, I have left the letter without a superscription, in order that you may direct it to the one, or the other, as you shall deem best. and I give you this trouble for the reason which is assigned in it; and for which, and troubling you with such trifles, I pray your excuse.

I had thoughts once, of asking Genl. McPherson to execute this Commission for me; (believing, thereby, that it would be well done) but never having been in the habit of corresponding with him, I declined it, on reflection; and of course the Stars for my Epaulets have stood suspended, and I would thank you for sending them to me; And, if it is not heaping too many trifles upon you, also for requesting Mr. McAlpin (if he has been able to obtain the gold thread) for letting me have my Uniform Cloaths by the Anniversary of our Independence;

[73] See the letter which follows.

forwarded in the manner he has heretofore been directed. I am always and very Affectionately Yours.

Is the Trade with Hispaniola likely to be opened, or not?[74]

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE, OR THE QUARTERMASTER

Mount Vernon, June 7, 1799.

Sir: My Ward, Mr. Custis, having entered into the Service of his Country as a (subaltern) Officer of Dragoons, I wish to equip him with every thing suitable thereto; in a handsome, but not an expensive style.

Let me pray you therefore to provide, and send by one of the first Packets bound to Alexandria, the following articles

viz.

A pair of Pistols and Horseman's Sword } Silver mounted.

A Saddle, best kind. A handsome bridle he already has and proper Halter

Holsters, and caps, to suit the Pistols

A proper Horseman's Cap, or Helmet

A horsemans Cloak, suitable to the Unifm.

If any other necessary article, is omitted, it may be added to the above list. Let the cost accompany the Invoice, and the amount shall be paid so soon as it is made known.

I could get these articles in Alexandria, but prefer sending to Philadelphia for them; because the tradesmen of the latter are more in the habit of accomodating Officers in a proper manner; but more especially, because there may have been some direction from the Department of War with respect to some of the Articles, which is better understood there than in the Country Towns: for which reason (wishing to avoid mistakes) I

[74] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

have taken the liberty of passing this letter through the hands of the Secretary of War, open; that, if he shall be pleased to take the trouble of communicating them, his sentiments may be known on any part thereof by you. I am etc.

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, June 10, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 1st. instant, and the Corn also in good order, has been received; the a/c of which Mr. Anderson, my Manager, will render you; with a certificate from respectable Merchants in Alexa. of the Cash prices of that article at the times of delivery.

It never was, nor is it my intention, to delay payment a moment longer then might suit your own convenience; of course you may draw upon me for the amount of the Corn, so as to answer your own purposes, as to time. My disappointments in the receipts of money, have been such, as to leave little hope of obtaining it through any other medium than by borrowing from the Bank of Alexandria.

For two tracts of Land which I held in the Counties of Washington and Fayette in the State of Pennsylvania, and sold on judgment Bonds payable by Instalments; whereof $6000 was to have been paid the first day of June 1798, and the like sum the first day of the present month, I have received (about eight months ago) only 1700$. Besides these Sums, I ought, by Contract, to have received on or before the first of Jany last upwards of $10,000 for other Lands disposed of; but have not yet got a farthing of the money; and that is not the worst of it, for I see little prospect thereof; in any reasonable time, when I view the conduct of those from whom this latter sum is expected. The first nam'd Sums I did, most assuredly, expect to

have received 'ere this; as I had only to present the Bonds of the purchasers to the Courts of the Counties in which the Land lay, to obtain Executions.

I do not mention these things with a view to induce you to postpone your draught a moment longer than you find perfectly convenient to yourself; and with respect to Mr Flood (for the Corn from Mr. T: W———ng'[75] Est) [*sic*] the money will be ready whenever it is called for. The advantage of a long day, to me, or even a short one, consists in the chance of receiving the money due on the Judgment Bonds, and rendering it unnecessary for me to borrow at the Bank, on disadvantageous terms. All I require is, that you would not draw at sight, that I may be allowed a little time to arrange matters at the Bank.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in best wishes for you, Mrs. Washington and the family, and I am etc.[76]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, June 16, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 5th instant came duly to hand.

Mr. Blagdens last call for $1000 is, I must acknowledge, sooner than I had contemplated; but I will make arrangements with the Bank of Alexandria to meet it by the first of next month. If his progress in the buildings, and faithful execution of the work, keep pace with his demands (and this is all I require) he shall have no cause to complain of my payments.

It would seem by a letter I have lately received from a Gentleman in Baltimore, to which place the Glass from Boston had (in the first instance) been sent, that a wrong box from the

[75] Thornton(?) Washington.

[76] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

former, had been sent to Alexana; and that the right one would follow by the first conveyance; requesting a return of the mistaken one. If it should have got into Mr. Blagdens hands, pray request him to forwd. it to Colo. Gilpin. Yrs. etc.[77]

*To FRANCIS DEAKINS

Mount Vernon, June 16, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 12th instant enclosing one of the 11th. of March from Mr. Veatch to you, and his settlement with Mrs. Priscilla Beall (or rather his a/c with her) has been duly received by me.

I am willing that Mr. Veatch should withhold any part of the Bond he has to collect from Reed on Mr Dades a/c, that you shall think reasonable and just, as compensation for the extra: trouble he has been put to in securing the Rents due from the above named persons; and request that you would be so good as to direct him accordingly, to do so.

If it would not be giving you two [*sic*] much trouble, I would ask the favor of you to sell the Tobacco recd. on a/c of Mrs. Beall's rent, for what it will fetch; and when the Cash is in your hands and I am advised thereof, I will *then* draw upon you for the amount, and the 26 dollars which are already there.

With very great esteem etc.

To JOHN MARSHALL

Mount Vernon, June 16, 1799.

Dear Sir: By the last mail I was favoured with your letter of the 12 instant, and feel much obliged by the attention of Colo. Carrington and yourself to the subject mentioned in my last letters to you.

[77] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

I am very glad that you did not forward my letter to Colo. Cropper. At the time of writing that letter I was aware of the circumstances which you mention, with respect to the relative rank of Officers in the actual and eventual Army, and was apprehensive that it might have an effect in the minds of some persons, who otherwise would have no objection to the appointments proposed. Yet I conceived, that, if any event should make it necessary to raise the Troops provisionally authorized, every friend to our Country and its government would hold himself in readiness to step forward with his personal services, and that those who did not mean to continue in the service beyond the pressure of the exigency which might call them forth, would not hesitate to hold any station where their talents and influence could be made useful to their Country.

Upon further consideration, I have, however, thought it best to write to Colo. Cropper in a way that will lead him to make a tender of his services, if he should be inclined so to do. And, at the same time, draw from him information respecting Characters for other grades. This letter shall be forwarded for your inspection and transmission.[78] In the mean time I will thank [you] to return that which is in your hands.

Altho' all the persons you have mentioned cannot be appointed to the Command of Regiments within the number alotted to Virginia; yet a choice of Characters is desireable on every account, and if any others occur I will thank you to forward their names, marking their relative qualifications as they stand in the estimation of yourself and the other gentlemen applied to on this subject.

In the Death of Mr. Henry[79] (of which I fear there is little doubt) not only Virginia, but our Country at large has

[78] See Washington's letter to John Cropper, June 17, 1799, *post*.
[79] Patrick Henry.

sustained a very serious loss. I sincerely lament his death as a friend; and the loss of his eminent talents as a Patriot I consider as peculiarly unfortunate at this critical junction of our affairs. With very great esteem etc.

P.S. Colo. Cropper would have been brought forward among the late appointments; but as he had never made any application, and it not being known whether he would be willing to serve or not, his name was omitted.[80]

*To WILSON ALLEN

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1799.

Sir: Your favor of the 29th Ulto. has been duly received, and would have been earlier acknowledged had I not been in daily expectation of seeing Mr Bushrod Washington on his Circuit.

Fearing he may have taken another route, or passed by without calling, I delay no longer to declare; that I think as you do, that his advice was given on mistaken ground; and in *that case,* a Deed from General Lee to me for the *same land* which he inform'd me, he had sent to your Office sometime ago for the purpose of recording, has taken a wrong course also.

Under this view of the matter I would pray you to with hold the recording of *both* (unless some evil may result from the delay) until I can know his sentimts on the subject, after he is possessed of a complete knowledge of the circumstances; or you yourself should be thoroughly satisfied of the right course for me to take, to give these Conveyances legal, and unequivocal effect. I thank you for your former sentiments on this point, as I shall do for any further information respecting it, being Sir, Your etc.

[80] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

*To WILLIAM ROBERTS

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1799.

Mr Roberts: I have caused some enquiries to be made, lately, respecting your present situation, and conduct; and am sorry to learn that the first is not eligable; and that the latter is far from being such as one would have hoped that experience, reflection, and I might add misfortunes, would have produced.

Had these enabled you to overcome a practice which has involved you in the most heartfelt distress, and in a manner brought you to the brink of Ruin; or, if I could entertain any well grounded hope that you would, by shifting the scene, and entering into your old walks at my Mill, refrain from drink, and the evils which it has produced, I would employ you again.

Whether you are able to accomplish the latter, or not, none but yourself can tell, and to you only I apply. If then, you would seriously resolve, and religeously adhere to a determination to be sober, and orderly in your deportment; and would be content with such wages and allowances as I give, and beyond which I cannot go, I would receive you as a Miller after the term of the person who looks after it at present, expires which will be on the 12th. of August.

These terms (although in the Articles of agreement which exist, are more detailed) may be seen in substance by the enclosed Paper from my Manager Mr. Anderson; and are as high as I have given to any Miller since you left the Mill, and as high as I can afford to give. Mr. Davenport, who succeeded you, lived at the Mill until his death (about three years ago); and the one who succeeded him (and is now the Miller) Callahan, has (as I am informed) no inclination to leave it; But, though tolerably knowing as Miller he is an indolent man, and thereby

unfit for exertion, although perfectly sober, and no charge against his honesty.

You will perceive from what is here written that your coming to me, as a Miller, depends absolutely upon two things; first, a solemn and fixed determination to refrain from liquor, and to be diligent in your duty and attentions to the Mill, and Cowpers;[81] and 2dly, that you will do it upon the terms mentioned in the enclosed paper; drawn into proper form. Whether you could be here, so as to take charge of the Mill by the 12th of August is not material; a month after might answer; but it is essential that you do; without delay, say yea, or nay, to the proposition, as I must decide with Callahan by the time an answer (in the common course of the Post) can be received from you.

The Work at my Mill is by no means hard; and a Man and a boy when there is water sufficient assists: It follows of course that a Miller can not be more at his ease any where; and you know from experience, that no man discharges the demand of wages, or fulfils agreements with more punctuality than I do. Such a place then, to a man in the decline of life, might be more desirable than one with higher wages accompanied with infinite more trouble and uncertainty: In a word, if you could keep yourself within bounds, it might be considered as a settlement, as it were, for life. I wish you well and am Your friend.

To JOHN CROPPER

Mount Vernon, June 17, 1799.

Sir: Was I not well assured of your patriotism and firm attachment to the government of our Country, I should think it necessary to apologize for the trouble I am about to give you.

[81] Coopers.

The Secretary of War has signified to me, that the President of the U. S. thinks it highly expedient that no time should be lost in selecting proper Characters to Officer the 24 Regiments of Infantry authorized to be *eventually* raised by a law of the last Congress; and has requested me to furnish him with a list of the names of such persons as are best qualified and willing to serve in the respective grades of four of these Regiments, which is the proportion alotted to Virginia.

Having been absent from home for almost 25 years, with short intervals only, and in these intervals a necessary attention to my private concerns confining me almost entirely to my own Estate, I find my acquaintance with the Citizens of this State, particularly with the rising generation, very limited indeed. And, therefore, ready as I always am to do anything in my power to promote the public weal, I find it impossible to perform this task without the assistance of others on whom I can place a reliance.

As these Troops are authorized to be raised only in case of an actual war with a foreign power, or of imminent danger of invasion of our Territory by such power, it is to be presumed that, in such an event, every good Citizen would hold himself in readiness to take the field, if necessary, whether belonging to the eventual Army or not. I therefore flatter myself that when the President's intention of appointing the Officers for this Army shall be fully known, we shall find many of the valuable Officers who served with reputation in the Revolutionary War, as well as others, step forward and *offer* their services in grades which they would not accept, if their object was to pursue a military career for life, or to continue in the service beyond the exigency which might call them forth. This leads me to hope, that, instead of *seeking* for those who are willing to receive appointments, we shall find the best spirits of our

Country *offering* their services in those grades where their talents and influence can be useful, without feeling themselves bound by the scrupulous punctilios of Rank which Officers observe when Arms are assumed as a profession.

But, in order to place the matter upon certain ground, and to pursue it with system, it becomes necessary to make the selection before mentioned. And, as the propriety of drawing the Officers from different parts of the State, observing, as nearly as may be, a due proportion to the respective population, is obvious; I must, of course, obtain my information from various sources, and combine the result in the best manner I can.

I therefore, Sir, take the liberty to ask if you will be so good as to furnish me with the names of such Characters as are, in your opinion, qualified to fill the several Offices in one Regiment of Infantry, [a Ballance or part thereof;] and who would be willing to receive these appointments, annexing to their names the respective grades, and the places or Counties of their residence.

To facilitate this selection, and to observe the proportion before mentioned, I have thought it best to follow the four grand divisions of the State, as laid off by the Inspector General for the purposes of recruiting, and to endeavour to select the Officers of one Regiment from each. In that case, the division in which you reside, will comprehend the Counties of Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Charles City, James City, Mathews, Gloucester, York, Warwick, Elizabeth City, Acomac, Northampton, Caroline, King and Queen, Essex, King William, Middlesex, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland and King George. To these [Counties then] you will be pleased more particularly to confine your attention, But if suitable Characters are known to you in other parts of the State, I will thank you for the names of them also. [As these counties form a large district, and may comprehend more

valuable characters than the acquaintance of any one person in it extends to, it is left with you to advise with others or from such counties therein, as your intimacy is greatest to select a proportionate part. In a word, Sir, paying some attention to the policy of distribution, to select whole or part, such characters as would do honor to the Service and would be gratifying to your own feelings to command: a measure though it cannot be asked, is highly to be wished, and would have been gladly embraced in the arrangement of the 12 Regts. now recruiting if any thing had appeared at that time indicative of your Inclination to re-enter the Military line.]

You will readily see that these names must be handed to the President of the U. S. for his approbation, and afterwards confirmed or rejected by the Senate; it is therefore proper that no assurances of *appointment* be given to the parties which will render a change impracticable without wounding their feelings too much.

Where you are not personally well acquainted with such Characters as are fit and willing to serve, you will be so good as to obtain the best recommendations, and such as you can rely upon. And every cautionary measure is necessary to guard against errors which frequently result from the ease with which recommendations are generally obtained, the partiality of friends, and a delusive hope that men of bad habits, by being transplanted into the Army, will become good men and good Officers.

I have ventured, Sir, to give you this trouble because, from your former services in the military line I could confide in your knowledge and judgement of proper Characters to be brought forward at this time; and beleiving that I might readily count upon your best executions to render a service to your Country.

I will thank you for an acknowledgment of the receipt of this letter as soon as it gets to your hands and for your observations

on the subject of it, so far as you may then be prepared to give them. With very great esteem etc.[82]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, June 19, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 7th instant, with its inclosures, has been duly received. I am very glad to learn that the recruiting business, so far as it has been put in operation, succeeds agreeably to your wishes. It has commenced in Virginia, and I am informed that, in this vicinity (and I have no intelligence from the more distant parts of the State) its progress is very flattering. A supply of Cloathing would, however, promote this service even hereabouts; and unless it be furnished soon I am apprehensive it will languish, if not stop entirely.

I understand, by a letter which I received a few days since from General Pinckney, that the selection of Officers from No. and So. Carolina and Georgia, has been transmitted to the War Office. I hope, on every account, there will be no delay in completing this arrangement. The disposition you have made of the Artillery Regiment is, I have no doubt, just and proper, and calculated to promote the good of the Service.

I thank you for the information from Mr. King.[83] I have long believed that France owes the facility of her Conquests more to

[82] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear. The portions in brackets are in the writing of Washington. (See Washington's letter to John Cropper, June 6, 1799, *ante*.)

On June 17 Washington forwarded this letter, in a brief note to John Marshall, leaving it "unsealed for the inspection of yourself, Col. Carrington and Colo. Heath, or either of them. . . . If there should appear no objection to its being transmitted, I will thank you to close and forward it without delay." This draft, in Lear's writing, is in the *Washington Papers*.

On June 17 Washington wrote to the Secretary of War, forwarding applications for appointments in the Provisional Army from John Smith, who was recommended by Thomas Posey and Capt. Presley Peter Thornton; and a recommendation of Richard Robey, by Capt. Garnett Peyton and others, for appointment as cadet. Capt. George Steptoe Washington recommended the appointment of John Stephens, of Berkeley County, as a cadet in his company in the Eighth Infantry. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

[83] Rufus King.

the Jealousy and want of cordial co-operation among the powers of Europe, whose interest it is to check her desolating Ravages, than to any exertions of her own, great as they have been. It appears from every account (altho' there is none so full and distinct as I could wish) that her Armies have not only been checked; but obliged to retreat. And her internal Affairs do not seem to be in the best situation. Should these advantages be properly improved, I think the happiest effects may result from them. With very sincere regard etc.[84]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, June 22, 1799.

Sir: I have been desired by Mr. Saml. Love, of Loudoun County, in this State, to mention to you his wish to contract for furnishing Horses for the Army. I have informed him that I am unacquainted with the mode in which it is contemplated to obtain Horses, leaving the business of contracts and supplies to the departments to which they are assigned; but that I would mention his name to you in the way he desired.[85] Of Mr. Love's qualifications to execute a Contract of this kind I am ignorant, as I have but little personal knowledge of him. But if he comes forward in the business, it will lay with him to produce such evidence of his fitness as shall be satisfactory.

While I am upon the subject, I would beg leave to suggest, whether it would not be the most eligible mode of obtaining the best Horses for *Cavalry* service, to permit the Captains to purchase them for their respective Troops, limiting them to a certain price? Two advantages would, in my opinion, evidently result from this mode. The Captains would be particularly

[84] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[85] On June 22 Washington wrote to Samuel Love that he would "mention your name to Secretary of War, in the way you have desired." The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

attentive to procure the best horses that could be had for the prices, knowing that their own Credit, the appearance of their Troops and the services expected from them would in a great measure depend upon their care in the choice of Horses. And their dispersed situation would give a better opportunity of obtaining them from different quarters than could be done by any Individual fixed in one place; to say nothing of the advanced price put upon horses, from their first purchase, by Contracts, and the impositions to which the public may be exposed.

I merely suggest this for your consideration, not doubting but, upon mature deliberation, such plan will be pursued as shall appear but calculated to promote the public good.

With due respect etc.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing your favor of the 18th inst has come to hand, which I take this opportunity to acknowledge.[86]

*To ARCHIBALD BLAIR

Mount Vernon, June 24,1799.

Sir: Your favor of the 19th. instt. enclosing the copy of a letter from our deceased friend Patrick Henry Esqr, to you, dated the 8th. of Jany. last, came duly to hand;[87] for this instance of your polite attention to me, I pray you to accept my thanks, and an assurance that the latter shall find a distinguished place in my Beaureau of Public Papers.

At any time I should have recd. the account of this Gentleman's death with sorrow. In the present crisis of our public affairs, I have heard it with deep regret. But the ways of Providence are inscrutable, and not to be scanned by short sighted man; whose duty is submission, without repining at its decrees.

[86] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.
[87] Blair's letter and the copy of Henry's letter are in the *Washington Papers*.

I had often heard of the Political Sentimts. expressed in Mr. Henry's letter to you, and as often a wish that they were promulgated through the medium of the Gazettes. The propriety, or inexpediency of which measure, none can decide more correctly than yourself. But after what you have written to me, I feel an incumbency to inform you, that another copy of that letter has been either surreptitiously obtained, or fabricated; and more than probably is now in the Press; for I was informed on the day preceding my receipt of your letter, that one was in the hands of a Gentleman in this County (Fairfax) and that he had been asked to, and it was supposed would, have it Printed.

My breast never harboured a suspicion that Mr. Henry was unfriendly to me, although I had reason to believe that the same Spirit which was at work to destroy all confidence in the Public functionaries, was not less busy in poisoning private fountains, and sowing the Seeds of distrust amg. men of the same Political sentiments. Mr. Henry had given me the most unequivocal proof whilst I had the honor to command the Troops of the United States in their Revolutionary struggle, that he was not to be worked upon by Intriguers; and not conscious that I had furnished any cause for it, I could not suppose that without a cause, he had become my enemy since. This proof, contained in the letter to wch. you allude, is deposited among my files. (but for want of a proper receptacle for them, which I mean to erect), they are yet in packages. When I shall be able to open them with convenience, I will furnish you with a copy of what passed between Mr. Henry and myself, in consequence of the attempt which was made by a Party in Congress, to supplant me in that command, since you think they are not to be found among his Papers, and wish to be possessed of them.

Your letter to me, Sir, required no apology, but has a just claim to the thanks, and gratitude of one who has the honor to be, Your most obedt. (and for its contents) obliged etc.

*To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your private letter of the 15th instant came duly to hand.

So far as my information extends (which by the bye is very limited) the Recruiting Service in this State progresses beyond my expectation, But is retarded very considerably from the want of cloathing: the ragged appearance of the Recruits having a tendency to disgust, rather than to excite, enlistments.

I think with you, that policy dictates the expediency of promoting Brigadier Wilkinson to the Rank of Majr. General, and will suggest the measure to the Secretary of War in a private communication. It would feed his ambition, sooth his vanity, and by arresting discontent, produce the good effect you contemplate. But in the appointment of this Gentleman, regard must be had to time, circumstances, and dates; otherwise by endeavouring to avoid Charybdas we might run upon Scylla.

What I mean by this is, that the President may deem it expedient to take the next Majr. General from the Eastern States; again, may recur to the former appointments of that Grade in the Provisional Army; and further (if Services in the Revolutionary Army are to be regarded) to relative Rank also in dating the Commissions of the Major Generals, yet to be appointed.

If Genl. Wilkinson should be promoted, it will be expected, no doubt, that the oldest Lieutt. Colo. Commandant should step into his Shoes as Brigadier; of course the oldest Major of the old line, would succeed to the vacancy occasioned thereby. Who, and what the character of these Gentleman are; I know not: the measure deserves consideration. I am etc.[88]

[88] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: By transmitting General Hamilton's letter to me of the 15th. instant,[89] respecting the expediency of promoting General Wilkinson to the Rank of Major General in the Armies of the United States, and my reply thereto of the present date, I find it the easiest mode of communicating the ideas of both of us on this subject; and the necessity of enlarging thereon is superceded thereby.

I have only to pray that both may be returned to Dear Sir etc.

[H. S. P.]

*To JOHN TRUMBULL

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 18th. of Septr last, with the small box containing four pair of Prints, came safe to hand, but long after the date of the letter.

Immediately upon the receipt of these, having forgot the terms of the Subscription, and not knowing, as you were absent, to whom the money was to be paid, I wrote to Governor Trumbull for information on this head, without obtaining further satisfaction than that he thought it probable, Mr. Anthony of Philadelphia was authorised, by you to receive the amount. In consequence, I addressed this Gentleman; (who being

[89] Hamilton had written: "It strikes me forcibly that it will be both right and expedient to advance this Gentleman to the grade of Major General. . . . I am aware that some doubts have been entertained of him and that his character on certain sides gives room for doubts. Yet he is at present in the service; is a man of more than ordinary talent . . . and will naturally find his interest as an ambitious man in deserving the favour of the Government; while he will be apt to become disgusted, if neglected, and through disgust may be rendered really what he is now only suspected to be." Hamilton's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

absent from that City, as he said, by way of apology for the delay in answering my letter in a reasonable time) and shall, immediately, pay what is due from me, thereon.

I give you the trouble of this detail because I should feel unpleasant myself if after your marked politeness and attentions to me in this, as in every other transaction, any tardiness should have appeared on my part, in return for Prints so valuable.

The two Vols. put into your hands by Mr. West[90] for transmission to me, are the productn. of a Mr Uvedale Price on the Picturesque; accompanied by a very polite letter of which the enclosed is an acknowledgment to that Gentleman, recommended to your care; with my best respects to Mr. West.

I was on the point of closing this letter with my thanks for the favourable Sentiments you have been pleased to express for me, and adding Mrs. Washington's complimts. and best wishes thereto, when the Mail from Philadelphia brought me your interesting letter of the 24th of March.

For the political information contained in it I feel grateful, as I always shall for the free and unreserved communication of your Sentiments upon subjects so important in their nature, and tendency. No well informed and unprejudiced man, who has viewed with attention the conduct of the French Government since the Revolution in that Country, can mistake its objects or the tendency of the ambitious plans it is pursuing. Yet, strange as it may seem, a party, and a powerful one too, among us, affect to believe that the measures of it are dictated by a principle of self preservation; that the outrages of which the Directory are guilty, proceeds from dire necessity; that it wishes to be upon the most friendly and amicable terms with the United States; that it will be the fault of the latter if this is not the case; that the defensive measures which this Country have

[90] Benjamin West.

adopted, are not only unnecessary and expensive, but have a tendency to produce the evil which, to deprecate, is mere pretence, because War with France they say is the wish of this Government; that on the Militia we should rest our Security; and, that it is time enough to call these when the danger is imminent, &ca. &ca. &ca.

With these, and such like ideas, attempted to be inculcated upon the public mind (and prejudices not yet eradicated) with all the arts of sophistry, and no regard to truth, decency or respect to characters, public or private, who happen to differ from themselves in Politics, I leave you to decide on the probability of carrying such an extensive plan of defence as you have suggested in your last letter, into operation; and in the short period you propose may be allowed to accomplish it in.

The public mind has changed, and is yet changing every day, with respect to French principles. The people begin to see clearly, that the words and actions of the governing powers of that Nation can not be reconciled: and that, hitherto, they have been misled by sounds; in a word that while they were in pursuit of the shadow they had lost the substance. The late changes in the Congressional Representation sufficiently evince this opinion: for of the two sent from the State of Georgia; one certain, some say both are Federal characters; of six from South Carolina five are, decidedly so; of ten from North Carolina, seven may be counted upon; and of nineteen from this State (Virginia) eight are certain, a ninth doubtful, and, but for some egregious mismanagement, Eleven supporters of Governmental measures would have been elected.

I mention these facts, merely to shew that we are *progressing* to a better state of things; not because we are quite right yet. Time I hope will shew us the necessity, or at least the propriety of becoming so. God grant it, and soon.

It is unfortunate when men cannot, or will not, see danger at a distance; or seeing it, are undecided [*sic*] in the means which are necessary to avert, or keep it afar off. I question whether the evil arising from the French getting possession of Louisiana and the Floridas would be *generally* seen, until it is felt; and yet no problem in Euclid is more evident, or susceptible of clearer demonstration. Not less difficult is it to make them believe, that offensive operations, often times, is the *surest,* if not the *only* (in some cases) means of defence.

Mrs. Washington is grateful for your kind remembrance of her, and with Mrs. Lewis (formerly your old acquaintance Nelly Custis) Compliments and good wishes united, I am with sentiments of the most perfect esteem etc.

*To WILLIAM HERBERT

Mount Vernon, June 25, 1799.

Dear Sir: In expectation of receiving considerable sums of money for Lands sold for the express purpose of raising it, I have (being able hitherto to get along without it) forborne to apply to the Bank for aid. But out of $15,000 which ought to have been paid by the first of June 1798, and nearly the same sum this month for Lands, sold . . .[91] I have recd. $1700 *only*.

This disappointment, and calls upon me which I . . . to parry under . . . ly true, induced me to accept your kind offer of endorsing my notes for the money I may have occasion to desire. On, or about the first of July I shall have demands to answer . . . (exclusive of the balance I have rem[ain]g . . . of about $1,500 and wish . . . such steps as are necessary . . . (as borrowing . . . new to me) I would thank you to point out; and to inform me of. Arrangement can be made . . . my attendance in Alexandria . . . my draughts will be honored.

[91] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

and if so, that you would be so good as . . . or prepare in my behalf, the needful. I have no stamps, if they be necsy. I would thank you also for information of the terms on which this accommodation at the Bank is to be obtained; for as I have observed before it is . . . new scene I am entering upon.

With very great esteem etc.

PS. Besides the $5000 above, I may, from . . . some causes be obliged . . . 'ere long . . . desirous . . . taking the Land . . . before I do this.[92]

To SAMUEL M. FOX[93]

Mount Vernon, June 26, 1799.

Sir: I thank you for the prompt answer to my enquiries respecting Ritchie's and Shreves Bonds deposited in the Bank of Pennsylvania for collection I pray you to inform me whether the circumstances attending the deposit of $250 to Mr. Ross's credit, my agent, as he was assured, were such as to enable me to transfer or rather would authorize the Bank to pay the same to my draught or not

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[92] From a photostat of an undated memorandum, in the writing of Washington, through the kindness of E. Francis Riggs, of Hyattsville, Md.

The bank stocks held by Washington, at this (June 25) or an approximate date, are shown as:

"Alexandria

In my own name: Ten, dated the 5th. of July 1796 and Numbd. 1351. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9 and 1360 . . . a 200 Drs.	..	$2000.
In the name of Wm. Herbert. Transferred to Tobs. Lear 24th. Octr. 1796 as certified by Chas. Love, and numbered 842. 3. 4. 5. 6 and 7.	...	1200
By sundry transfers before they came to Mr. Lear, 8th Jan. 1796, Numbd. 179. 204. 205 and 520	...	800
By Do. Do. Do. 29th May 1795 Numbd. 595.6 and 7; and 605 and 612.	...	1000
Columbia: In the name of Mr. Lear dated 6th. Aprl. 1796. No. 89: 100 Sh	100 Sh..	4000
Transfered on acct. of Reed & Ford by C. Lengan	41.....	1640
Due on said acct. 29.....		1160
		12, 800"

[93] President of the Bank of Pennsylvania.

If nothing from the date of your last has been heard from Shreve or the Representative of Mr Ritchie to some effect, nor from Mr Ross, you would oblige me by forwarding the enclosed letter to the last named gentleman. It would distress me to be obliged to put the Judgment Bonds of the above named persons in suit but necessity will drive me to it if I cannot obtain payment and shortly without.

I thank you for the tender of the services of the Institution over which you preside. I am etc.[94]

To JAMES ROSS

Mount Vernon, June 26, 1799.

Dear Sir: Early in January last in answer to a letter of Col: Shreve in the old style of unprovideness and craving further indulgence I wrote him and transmitted the letter open under cover to you that I would stay proceedings on his Judgment Bond until the 1st of April last and no longer and that I should without fail expect to have the next Instalment paid at the appointed time (the 1st of the present month) since which I have heard not a tittle from him

Waiting until this month had come in I wrote the President of the Bank of Pennsylvania to know if Shreve or the Executor of Col Ritchie had made any deposits there on my a/c and if not if any intimations had been given of such intention and am answered No except that $250 had been placed there to your credit, supposed to be for my use.

No man can with more reluctance than myself seek justice in a Court of Law, nor no one with more unwillingness distress others; but my situation with respect to pecuniary matters is really such as to require these payments, being obliged to obtain money from the Banks and discount substitutes therefor which

[94] From a recent copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

by the difference of interest would in time entirely sink the Instalments I am to receive from Shreve and the heirs of Ritchie. I am really sorry and ashamed to give you so much trouble in my concerns but between being pressed myself and an unwillingness to proceed to extremities with others, I feel the want of some person who can give me such information as I can rely on and who possibly may stimulate exertions which may supersede the necessity of the latter before the measure is adopted. which it must be if a well grounded assurance cannot be given of my receiving my dues in time. At your leisure I would beg to hear from you and with great and sincere esteem etc.[95]

*To FRANCIS DEAKINS

Mount Vernon, June 26, 1799.

Dear Sir: Below, is a receipt for the Cash arising from the Sale of the Tobo. recd from Mrs. Beall on a/c of Rent, and for $26 bale paid you by Mr. Veatch. What you have done with that Gentleman is perfectly agreeable to, Dr Sir etc.

Mount Vernon 26th. June 1799

Then received from Colo Frans. Deakins Twenty six dollars, bale. of cash paid him by Mr. H Veatch on my a/c for Rent; and One hundred and one dollars and 89 Cents for sales of Tobo. recd. from Mrs. Priscilla Beall on same a/c as below.

PB..	1080 ..	1005 ..	102 ..	902		
	1082 .	1003 ..	97 .	906		
				— 1808 a 5½$		$99.59
				2 Casks		2 ..
						101.59

[95] From a recent copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

On June 29 Washington recorded the following memoranda: "Not being able to make Mr. Rawlins's Survey of some of the Fields at Dogue-Run close, I went out with my Compass this day and surveyed the following fields in the following manr. viz: Began at the centre of the North gate of the Barn yard etc." This memoranda (4 pp. 8°) is in the *Washington Papers.*

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favours of the 24th and 25th. instant have been received.

For the Stars, enclosed in the latter, I thank you. The amount of cost, Six dollars, is herein remitted. I preferred sending a Columbia Bank note for a dollar, to one of Silver (in a letter), as it can readily be exchanged for the latter, and the other Banks issue no notes under five dollars.

For the Box[96] which accompanied the letter of the 24th.[97] I feel much obliged. I have not had time yet to examine, and compare the figures with the Instructions; but prima facia, there is something curious and I dare say useful in the design.

I shall send up to Alexandria on Wednesday, but shall feel no disappointmt. if my Uniform is not there. With very grt. esteem etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1799.

Sir: Enclosed are letters from several persons, as mentioned at foot, applying for appointments in the actual Army. I have no personal knowledge of the Characters of the Applicants, nor do I know whether there are any vacancies to which they can be appointed, however deserving they may be.

With due consideration etc.

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[96] This box is noted in the inventory of the contents of Mount Vernon, made soon after Washington's death, as being in the "Iron Chest," and is appraised at $2.

[97] McHenry had written (June 24): "I send you by this mail, a small box containing military figures for the practice of tactics, being one of a few sets I ordered from London. Perhaps they may occasionally serve as a substitute for the chess board." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

Charles Thompson, recommended by B. Washington Esqr. for a Lieut in the Cavalry, or an appoints. in the Infantry.

Charles Julian, recommended by Generals Posey and Spotswood for an appointmt in the Artillery.

*William H. Powell, applies for a Captaincy in the Cavalry.

Ruben Thornton. Heretofore appointd. an Ensign in Infantry, which he declined, applying for an appoint in the Cavalry.

John Campbell,[98] recommended by his father Arthur Campbell

*Note Since Mr Powell's application came to hand I have been informed that he drinks hard. If so, he is unfit for any appointment.[99]

*To EDWARD SAVAGE

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 17th instant and the Print (which is exceedingly handsome, and well set) have come safe; and receives, as it highly deserves, the thanks of Mrs. Washington; to whom you have had the kindness, and politeness to present it.

I thank you also for the prints of the Chase, and action between the Constellation and the L'Insurgent; exhibiting a specimen of the art of Engraving by means of Aquafortis. The invention is curious, and if the sample of it which you have sent is the first essay, it will, no doubt, prove a valuable discovery; as, like all other discoveries it will undergo improvements.

Mrs. Washington is thankful for your kind remembrance of her, and joins in every good wish for you and yours, with Sir, Your etc.

PS. Whenever you have fixed upon your Landscapes, for Engraving by means of Aquafortis, and have executed them, be so good as to inform me thereof.

[98] Campbell declined the commission of lieutenant in the Eighth Infantry.
[99] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

*NEGROES

Belonging to George Washington in his own right and by Marriage

[June, 1799 [1]]

G. W			Dower		
Names.	ages	Remarks	Names.	ages	Remarks
Tradesmen, &ca.			Tradesmen, &ca.		
Nat Smith		His wife Lucy D R dowr.	Tom Davis B: layr.		Wife at Mr. Lears.
George Do		Ditto Lydia R F. Do	Simms Carpr.		Do Daphne French's
Isaac Carpr.		Kitty Daisy Do.	Cyrus Postn.		Do. Lucy R F GW
James Do	40	Darcus M. H. GW	Wilson Ditto	15	No wife.
Sambo Do		Agnes R. F. dowr.	Godfrey Cartr.		Wife Mima. Mn Ho. dowr
Davy Do		Edy U. F. GW	James Do		Do Alla Do Do
Joe Do		Dolshy Spinr dowr	Hanson Distr.		No wife
Tom Coopr.		Nanny M Ho GW	Peter Do		Ditto
Moses Do		No wife	Nat Do		Ditto
Jacob Do		Ditto	Daniel Do		Ditto
George Gardr		His wife Sall D. R. dowr.	Timothy Do		
Harry Do		No wife	Sla: Joe Ditchr		Wife Sylla D. R. GW
Boatswain Ditc		His wife, Myrtilla Spinr GW	Chriss Ho Ser		Do Majr Wests
Dundee Do		His wife at Mr Lears	Marcus Do		no Wife
Charles Do		Ditto Fanny U. F. dowr	Lucy Cook		Husbd Ho Frank GW
Ben Do		Ditto Penny R. F. GW	Molly		No Husband
Ben Miller		Ditto Sinah Mn. Ho dow	Charlotte Semptrs		No husband

Forrester---Do		No wife
Nathan---Cook	31	Wife--Peg---M. Ho. GW
W. Muclus---B: layr.		Do---Captn. Marshalls
Juba---Carter		No wife
Matilda---Spinner		Boson---Ditcher
Frank---H. Servt.		Wife--Lucy---Cook
Will---Shoemr.		Lame---no wife
Amount	24	

Sall---Ho Md		Do
Caroline---Do		Husbd. Peter Hardman
Kitty---Milk Md		Do. Isaa. Carpr.---GW
Alce---Spinr		Charles. Freeman
Betty Davis---Do		Mrs. Washington's Dick
Dolshy----		Husbd. Joe---Carpr. GW
Anna----		Do--livg at George Town
Judy----	21	No Husband
Delphy----		Ditto--do
Peter---lame Knttr.		No wife
Alla---Do		Husbd. James Cartr--dowr
Amount	28	

Mansion House

Passed Labour

Frank----	80	No Wife
Gunner----	90	Wife--Judy---RF. GW
Sam Cook----	40	Ditto--Alce---MH. Do
Amount	3	

Mansion House

Will		Wife Aggy---DR. GW
Joe---Postiln.		Do. Sall. R F. Do.
Mike----		No wife. Son to Lucy
Sinah----		Husbd. Miller Ben---GW
Mima----		Do Godfrey.--Wagr--dowr
Lucy----		No Husband
Grace----		Husbd. Mr Lears' Juba.
Letty----		No husband

[1]This manuscript is undated but seems to have been drawn up at some time prior to the final drafting of the Last Will and Testament. A previous census of the slaves at Mount Vernon had been taken in 1786. (See the "Diaries," Feb. 18, 1786.)

G. W			Dower		
Names.	ages	Remarks	Names.	ages	Remarks
Tradesmen, &ca.			Tradesmen, &ca.		
			Nancy		Ditto do
			Viner		Ditto Do
			Eve	17	Ditto a dwarf
			Delia	14	Ditto her sister
			Children		
			Phil		Son to Lucy
			Patty		daughter to Do.
			Rachel	12	Daughr to Carolina
			Jemima	9	Ditto Ditto
			Leanthe	8	Ditto Ditto
			Polly	6	Ditto Ditto
			Peter B	4	Son Ditto
			Emery		Son to Alce
			Tom		Ditto Ditto
			Charles		Ditto Ditto
			Henriette		Daughr Ditto
			Barbara	10	Ditto to Kitty
			Levina	6	Ditto Ditto
			Elvey		Ditto to Charlotte
			Jenny		Ditto Ditto
			Eliza		Ditto Ditto

			Nancy	9	Ditto to Betty D
			Oney	6	Ditto Ditto
			Lucinda	2	Ditto Ditto
			Daniel	6	Son to Anna
			Anna	4	daugh Ditto
			Sandy	1½	Son Ditto
			Sucky	5	daughr to Dolsby
			Dennis	2 mo	Son Ditto
			John		Ditto to Mima
			Randolph		Ditto Ditto
			Nancy		daughr to Sinah
			Burwell		Son to Lucy
			Passed labour		
			Doll		No husband
			Jenny		Do Ditto
			old	2	
			Workers	12	
			Children	28	
brot. over	2	Mansion House	Amount	42	Mansion House
Trades, &ca.	24		House Serts., Spinners, &ca. &ca.	28	
Not engagd in Cropping					
Total	26	not cultivators of the Soil	Total	70	Not employed in the Crops, &ca.

Geo. Washington 26
Dower 70

In all 96 Not employed in the Crops

G. W		
Names	age	Remarks
Dogue run—Farm		
Ben	57	Wife Peg D. R. Dowr.
Long Jack	60	Wife Molly Do. GW
Dick	46	Ditto Charity Do Do.
Carter Jack	40	Ditto Grace Do Dowr.
Simon	20	No Wife
Lawrence	14	Son to Matilda GW
Judy blind	50	Husbd Gabriel MH GW
Molly Cook	45	Ditto long Jack DR GW
Charity	42	Ditto Dick Do Do
Priscilla	36	Ditto Slamin Joe Dowr
Linney	27	No husband
Agnes	25	Husbd Will Mann. Ho. Dowr.
Sarah	20	No Husband
Betty	16	Do Do
Sophia	14	Do Do Siller's daughr.
Savary	13	daughr to Siller D. R.
Children		
Penny	11	Ditto Do do
Israel	10	Son Do do

Dower		
Names	ages	Remarks
Dogue run—Farm		
Lucy	50	Husbd. Smith Natt GW
Sall Twine	38	Do Gardr George GW
Grace	35	Do Cartr Jack GW
Peg	30	Do Ben DR GW
Kate	18	Do a negro of Moreton's
Ned	14	Son to Luch D. R
Children		
Teney	10	Daughr to Lucy DR
Barbary	11	Daughr to Sall T DR
Abbay	10	Do Do Do
Hannah	4	Do Do Do
George	1	Son Do Do
Roger	10	Do to Grace DR
Molly	6	Daugr Do do
Jenny	3	Do Do do
Billy	6	Son to Peg do
Fendal	2	Do Do do
Peg	8 mo.	Daughr Do do

Isrias	3	Do	do			
Christopher	1	Son	Do do			
Fomison	11	Daughr to	Charity do			
Dick	3	Do	Do do			
Bartley	6	Ditto to	Linney do	Sue	70	No Husband
Matilda	1	Daughr	Do do			
Lucy	2	Ditto to	Sarah do			
Guy	2	Son to	Agnes do			
Passed labour						
Hannah	60	No Husbd	partly an ideot			

Workers 16
Children 10 } together 27
Pass'd labr 1

Workers 6
Children 11 } making 18
Pass'd labr 1

Whole amt. at this Farm 45

G W

Names	age	Remarks
River Farm		
Robin	80	nearly passed labr.
Nald	55	Wife—Doll—RF—dowr
Ned	56	Ditto—Hanh—do—do.
Ben Cartr	22	
Peg	56	Husbd—old Ben—RF—dowr
Judy	55	Ditto—Gunna—GW
Cloe	55	No husband.
Suckey	50	Ditto—do
Suckey Bay	46	husbd— belongg. to Adans
Sall	30	Ditto—Postn. Joe—dowr
Rose	28	No husband
Penny	20	Husbd—Ben Hubd—GW
Lucy	18	Ditto Cyrus Postn—dowr
Hannah	12	daughr. Daphne—dead
Daniel	15	Son to Suckey—RF
Henry	11	Son to Sall—do.
Nancy	11	daugh to Bay Suke—do.
Children		
Elijah	7	Son to Sall—RF

Dower

Names	age	Remarks
River Farm		
Ben	70	Nearly done—Peg for wife
Breechy	60	not better—Ruth—his wife
Johny	39	Wife—Esther—RF—dowr.
Richmond	20	No wife
Ned	20	
Henky	17	Son—to—Agnes—RF
Jack	22	Do.
Esther	40	Husbd—John—Do.
Doll	58	Husbd—Natt—RF—GW
Lydia	50	Ditto—Smith Geo: GW
Agnes	36	Ditto—Sambo Carr: GW
Alce	26	Ditto—Lears—John
Fanny	30	Ditto—Alexanders
Betty	20	Ditto—Lears—Reuben
Doll	16	No husbd. Daugh to Doll
Cecelia	14	No husbd. Ditto to Agnes
Jack	12	Son—to—Doll
Anderson	11	Ditto—to—Agnes
Lydia	11	Daughr. to Lydia
Children		
Ralph	9	Son to Sall—RF.

Dennis	5	Ditto Do do.	Charity	2	Daughr Do Do
Gutridge	3	Ditto Do do.	Charles	1	Son Do Do
Polly	1	daughr Do do.	Davy	6	Cornelia's Childn. deced. dow
Hagar	6	Do to Rose do.	Lewis	4	
Simon	4	Son Do do.	Alce	2	
Tom	2	Do Do do.	Suckey	4	Daughtr to Alce RF
Joe	1	Do Do do.	Jude	1	Ditto Do Do.
Nancy	4	Daughr to Bay Suke do.	Milley	1	Daughr. to Betty Do.
			Peter	9	Son to Doll Do.
Passed labour			Hannah	old	Cooks Husbd. Ned Do.
Ruth	70	husbd Breechy dowr.			

Workers 17, Children 9, Passed labr 1 } together 27

Workers 19, Children 10, Cook 1 } making 30

Altogether, at this Farm 57

G W			Dower		
Names	age	Remarks	Names	age	Remarks
Muddy hole F.			Muddy Hole F.		
					Wife
Gabriel	30	Wife Judy D. R GW	Davy Ovr	56	Molly M Ho dowr
Uriah	24		Will Mintr [*sic*]	60	Ditto Kate do GW
Moses	19	Son to Darcus GW	Molly	76	Husband Davy Ovr.
Kate	old	Husbd Will M. H dowr.	Patience	14	Daughtr. Dolly U. Farm
Nanny	do	Do Tom Cooper GW	Mary	11	Ditto Betty Do
Sacky	40	No Husband			
Darcus	36	Husbd James Carpr GW			
Peg	34	Ditto Nathan Ck GW			
Alce	38	Ditto Sam do GW			
Amie	30	No Husband			
Nancy	28	Husbd Abram French			
Molly	26	No Husband			
Virgin	24	Husbd Gabe Mr. Lear			
Letty	19	No husband			
Kate long	18	daughr. of Kate			
Kate sht	18	Ditto Alce M. H			
Isbel	16	Ditto Sarah dead			
Townshend	14	Son to Darcus			

Children							
Alce	8	Daughr	to	Darcus			
Nancy	2	Ditto		do			
Lucy	11	Daughr	to	Peg			
Diana	8	Ditto		do			
Alexander	3	Son		do			
Darcus	1	Daughr		do			
Oliver	11	Son	to	Nancy			
Siss	8	Daughr		do			
Martin	1	Son		do			
George	8	Do	to	Alce			
Adam	7	Do		do			
Cecelia	2	Daughr		do			
Sylvia	10	Ditto	to	Molly			
James	7	Son		do			
Rainey	8	Daughr	to	Amie			
Urinah	2	Ditto		do			
Billy	2	Son	to	Letty			
Henry	1	Ditto		do			

Workers 18, Children 18 } together 36

Workers 3, Does nothing 1, Young 1 } In all 5

Altogether, at this Farm 41

GW

Names	ages	Remarks
Union—Farm		
London	64	No Wife
Joe	24	
Edy	26	Husbd Davy Carpr GW
Children		
Sarah	6	Daughr to Edy
Nancy	1	Do do.
Passed labr.		
Flora	64	No Husband

DOWER

Names	ages	Remarks
Union—Farm		
Sam Kitt	78	wife at Danl. Stoses
Cæsar	50	No Wife
Paul	36	Do. Do.
John	16	Son to Betty U. F
Betty	62	No husbd Cooks
Lucy	50	Husbd. at Cap Marshalls
Fanny	36	Do Charles Ditchr.
Jenny	34	Do Mrs. Washns. George
Rachell	34	No Husband
Milly	22	Do Do
Lucretia	20	Do Do
Gideon	13	Son to Betty
Jamie	11	Do to Fanny
Ephraim	11	Do to Rachal
Children		
Davy	8	Do Ditto
Guss	3	Do Ditto
Beck	4	Daughr Ditto
Eneas	1	Son Ditto
Elizabeth	9	Daughr to Doll
Suckey	11	Do at Mrs. W Do
Elias	2 mo.	Son Do

Daphne	5	Daughr to Fanny
Charles	1	Son Ditto
Felicia	7	Daughr to Jenny
Jonathan	3	Son to Ditto
Hellam	1	Do Do.
Diana	1	Daughr to Milly
Jesse	6	Son to Patt dead

Passed labour

Daphne	70	No
Doll	52	Lame and pretds. to be so

Workers 3
Children 2 } making 6
Pass'd labr 1

Workers 14
Children 14 } making 30
Non-Workrs 2

Whole amount at this Farm exclusive of French's Negs 36

Union Farm ought to have been entered in this place; but by mistake, was carrd. to the other side.

Recapitulation

Where and how Empld.	Belonging to GW							Dower							Grand Total
			Workg.		Childn.					workg Childn					
	Men	Womn	boys	girls	boys	girls	Total	Men	Wome	boys	girls	boys	girls	Total	
Tradesmen and others, not employed on the Farms---viz															
Smiths	2	--	---	---	---	---	2	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	2
Bricklayers	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	2
Carpenters	5	--	---	---	---	---	5	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	6
Coopers	3	--	---	---	---	---	3	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	3
Shoemaker	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	1
Cooks	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	--	1	---	---	---	---	1	2
Gardeners	2	--	---	---	---	---	2	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	2
Millers	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	2
House-Servants	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	2	4	---	---	---	---	6	7
Ditchers	4	--	---	---	---	---	4	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	5
Distillery	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	4	--	1	---	---	---	5	5
Postilions	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	1	--	1	---	---	---	2	2
Waggoners and Cartrs	1	--	---	---	---	---	1	2	--	---	---	---	---	2	3
Milk Maid	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	--	1	---	---	---	---	1	1
Spinners and Knitr	--	1	---	---	---	---	1	1	7	---	---	---	---	8	9
Mansion Ho	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	3	9	3	2	8	15	40	40
Muddy hole	3	14	1	---	8	10	36	2	--	---	2	---	---	4	40
River Farm	3	9	2	2	6	4	26	6	9	2	1	5	5	28	54
Dogue Run F	6	7	---	1	7	3	24	--	5	1	--	5	6	17	41
Union Farm	2	1	---	---	---	2	5	4	6	3	--	8	6	27	32
	36	32	4	3	21	19	115	28	42	11	5	26	32	144	259
Passed labr or that do not Work: Muddy hole	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	--	1	---	---	---	---	1	1
River Farm	1	1	---	---	---	---	2	1	1	---	---	---	---	2	4
Dogue Run	--	3	---	---	---	---	3	--	1	---	---	---	---	1	4
Union Farm	--	1	---	---	---	---	1	--	3	---	---	---	---	3	4
Mansion Ho	3	--	---	---	---	---	3	--	2	---	---	---	---	2	5
	40	37	4	3	21	19	124	29	50	11	5	26	32	153	277
Hired frm Mrs. French	9	9	2	4	6	10	40	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	40
Grand Total	49	36	6	7	27	29	164	29	50	11	5	26	32	153	317[2]

[2]From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

*To BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Mount Vernon, July 1, 1799.

My Dear Sir: Your favours of the 11th. of May and 4th. Ulto. have come [illegible] hand. The last the day before yesterday only.

The cost of the Glass therein enclosed shall be immediately paid to Messrs. Solomon Cotton & Co. Merchts. in Baltimore, and for your Agency in this business I pray you to accept my thanks.

The mistake will, I trust, soon be rectified as the wrong box of glass was returned to Baltimore (according to desire) and the proper one expected from thence.

With the highest esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To SOLOMON COTTON & COMPANY

Mount Vernon, July 1, 1799.

Gentlemen: From my correspondant in Boston, I have (within these two days) received the bill of cost of Glass shipped from thence for my use; viz, $250. [*sic*] and am advised that the amount is to be paid to your house.[3]

Be so good therefore as to advise me whether you have any Agent in Alexandria to whom I shall pay the money? or whether you would prefer having it remitted in a *letter,* in Bank notes? as there is no person in Baltimore to whom I give the trouble of doing business for Gentlemen Your etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

[3] On July 10 Washington wrote briefly to Solomon Cotton & Co., sending them the half parts of bank notes for $250. "The other half parts, I shall retain until I am advised of the safe arrival of these, of which you will please to inform." This letter is in the Huntington Library.

On July 17 Washington wrote again to Cotton & Co. respecting these bank notes. A press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

On July 21 Washington wrote to Cotton & Co., sending the last halves of the $250 notes. A press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, July 2, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 25th has been received; but you have mistaken the case entirely with respect to the Asses who were sent to my Jacks; charging you nothing for the services of the latter, was not designed to lay you under obligation, but a feeble effort to repay the kindnesses you have heaped upon me.

Colo. Gilpin has forwarded the wrong box of glass to Baltimore, and soon will, I hope receive the proper one in return.

Enclosed is a check on the Bank of Alexandria for one thousand dollars agreeably to the demand of Mr. Blagden, for the purpose of defraying the expences incurred on my buildings in the Fedl. City. With very great esteem etc.

P. S. In the letter accompanying the Glass from Boston, the Makers say "The Glass must be set convex out." [N.Y.P.L.]

*To JANE DONALDSON FAIRFAX[4]

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1799.

General Washington presents his Compliments to Mrs. Fairfax, and has received a letter from Mr. Fairfax, dated the 28th. of April last, in which he says that he was better at that time, than he had been for months before; he could not refrain from giving Mrs. F'x the pleasing account of it (in case Mr. Fairfax's letters to herself should not have got to hand) especially too, as in another part of his letter he says, he hopes he shall be able to set off on his return to this Country in a few weeks.[5]

[4] Mrs. Bryan Fairfax.

[5] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 7, 1799.

My dear Sir: I have duly received your private letter of the 29th. Ulto. with its enclosures, and return your letters to and from General Hamilton.

In my letter to Genl. Hamilton, which has been before you, you find I have fully expressed my opinion on the expediency, regarding circumstances, of promoting General Wilkinson to the Rank of Major General; and I am always willing to give publicity to any sentiment which I have expressed in this way, if circumstances should require or render it proper. But as the appointment of other Officers of high rank has been made, not only without my recommendation, but even without my knowledge, I cannot see the necessity (much less after the intimations which appear in your letter to General Hamilton respecting this Gentleman) of my writing an official letter on this subject. Permit me, moreover to say, that it would seem as if, when doubts or difficulties present themselves, I am called upon to sanction the measure, and thereby take a responsibility upon myself; and in other cases, to which no blame may be attached, my opinions and inclinations are not consulted.

In giving my ideas in this manner I do not mean, my dear Sir, to express any disgust because I have not been consulted on every military appointment; but to show that there ought, in my opinion, to be consistency and uniformity observed in these matters.

I am very sorry that Colo Howard and General Lloyd have declined making a selection of persons for officering the eventual

Army from Maryland. If my knowledge of characters in that State, was equal to theirs, or to yours, I should not hesitate a moment in undertaking what you request; but the fact is, my acquaintance there is very limited; and I find I have already undertaken more, in this State, than I shall be able to accomplish to my own satisfaction; from the difficulties which have been suggested in my former letters. Indeed, it would be concealment, not to declare, that I see no other mode of making the selection in so expanded a State as Virga. (on the principle of distribution, according to population) than by having recourse to some such expedient as was suggested in a former letter of mine (in order to make the Presidents intentions generally known, and to give to all parts thereof an opportunity of making a tender of their military services) or, by dividing the State into as many districts as there are Regiments to be raised in it, and in each District to make choice of the most eligable character for the command thereof, authorising him, either alone, or with the aid of his field Officers to select the company Officers therefrom for consideration.

The first of these modes you have objected to; and the second is not free from exceptions; but the fact is, that I have been so little in this State for the last twenty five years, as to be utterly unable to accomplish your views without the aid of others; and those whom assist me most, having only a Commune interest therein, do not (for the reasons which I presume operated on Messrs. Howard and Lloyd) incline to commit themselves in such delicate business, where nothing they do is conclusive.

General Marshall (one of those whose aid I solicited) is gone to Kentucky; From General Lee, who discovered no promptness in the first instance, to give any assistance, I have not heard a syllable; and with respect to Genl Morgan, his recommendations are confined to a very narrow circle; I shall, notwithstandg, continue my endeavours to carry your request into

effect, in this State, but can promise no favourable result from the present plan. With sincere esteem etc.[6]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, July 7, 1799.

Sir: I have considered, with attention, the Rules adopted by the U. S. relative to rank and promotion in the Army, which were enclosed in your letter of the 2d inst. wherein you request me to suggest any alterations which may appear proper, to make them more perfect. These Rules meet my full approbatn, and I see no inconvenience that can arise from the establishment of them unless it be in the following clause. "Provided always that Colonels who were deranged shall take rank of Lieutenant Colonels who served to the end of the War." You will recollect, that, before the close of the Revolutionary War, the title of Colonel was abolished in the American Army, to obviate some difficulties which arose in the exchange of prisoners and that the title of Lieutenant Colonel Commandant was substituted in its place, to which rank was attached all the command, privileges and dignity which before appertained to that of Colonel. Now, may there not have been some persons at the close of the war, ranking as Lieutenant Colonels, who before held the Rank of Colonel, and who were older officers in that Rank than some who were deranged? If this should be the case difficulties may arise. You, having the dates of Commissions &c. to refer to, are better able to judge than I am, how far this may operate in the present case, and what attention it deserves. I therefore submit it to your considerations.

Agreeably to your request, I return the Rules which you forwarded to me, and I have the honor etc.[7]

[6] From the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.
[7] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

*To WILLIAM ROBERTS

Mount Vernon, July 8, 1799.

Mr. Roberts: As you have agreed to come upon the terms I have mentioned in the letter to you. Nothing therefore ..[8] to be said on that head. But as upon consideration of the subject, I had rather you should come before my present Miller goes away ... a good deal of flour in my Mill which requires judgment to preserve; ... Mill will require to ... the present scarcity of Water; it would, if you could make it convenient to yourself, be agreeable to me, that you should be here before the 10th of August, the expiration of my present Millers Service, or even sooner than that, might ... to me. Let me hear from you immediately upon receipt of this letter, if you cannot come as soon as it is wished and point out if you can any mode for preserving my flour which is growing musty and Sour ... I can accept, I wish you would ... I am etc.

PS. If you have anything to bring with [you] there are Vessels frequently coming hither from Richmond. Colo. Gilpin I believe has one. Having erected a Distillery at my Mill a well has been sunk for the use of it wch. furnishes excellent water.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To LEVIN POWELL

Mount Vernon, July 9, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 26th and 27th ultimo, recommending certain persons for appointments in the eventual Army, have been received, and will meet with due attention.

Whenever the applications for officers in this Army shall be sufficiently numerous to furnish the quota alotted to this State, a selection will be made and forwarded to the Secretary of War.

[8] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [...] are illegible.

In the mean time it will give me pleasure to receive recommendations of suitable Characters from those on whose judgment and patriotism I can rely; And altho' it is not customary for me to answer all letters of Recommendation, as the subject does not require it, yet I cannot but acknowledge the receipt of yours to assure you that I place a reliance upon them, being persuaded that you will recommend none but such as will do Credit to the service. With great regard etc.[9]

*LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

In the name of God amen

I GEORGE WASHINGTON of Mount Vernon, a citizen of the United States, and lately President of the same, do make, orda[in] and declare this Instrument; w[hic]h is written with my own hand [an]d every page thereof subscribed [wit]h my name, to be my last Will and [Tes]tament, revoking all others.[10]

Imprimus. All my [deb]ts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctu[al]ly and speedily paid; and the Legaci[es her]einafter bequeathed, are to be disc[ha]rged as soon as circumstances will [pe]rmit, and in the manner directe[d.]

Item. To my dearly [be]loved wife Martha Washington [I] give and bequeath the use, profit [an]d benefit of my whole Estate, real and p[e]rsonal, for the term of her natural li[fe;] except such parts thereof as are s[pec]ifically disposed of here-

[9] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

[10] The following is from Tobias Lear's account of Washington's last illness and death (Dec. 14, 1799): "About half past 4 o'clk, he desired me to ask Mrs. Washington to come to his bed side; when he requested her to go down into his room and take from his desk two Wills which she would find there, and bring them to him, which she did. Upon looking at them he gave her one which he observed was useless, as it was superceeded by the other, and desired her to burn it, which she did and then took the other and put it away." From the photostat in the Library of Congress. The original is in the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Mich.

after: [My improved] lot in the Town of Alex[andria, situated on] Pitt and Cameron [Streets, I give to her and] her heirs fore[ver, as I also do my [2][11]] household and Kitc[hen] furniture of every sort and kind, w[it]h the liquors and groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease; to be used and disposed of as she may think proper.

Item Upon the decease [of] my wife, it is my Will and desire th[at] all the Slaves which I hold in *[my] own right,* shall receive their free[dom.] To emancipate them during [her] life, would, tho' earnestly wish[ed by] me, be attended with such insu[perab]le difficulties on account of thei[r interm]ixture by Marriages with the [Dow]er Negroes, as to excite the most pa[i]nful sensations, if not disagreeabl[e c]onsequences from the latter, while [both] descriptions are in the occupancy [of] the same Proprietor; it not being [in] my power, under the tenure by whic[h t]he Dower Negros are held, to man[umi]t them. And whereas among [thos]e who will recieve freedom ac[cor]ding to this devise, there may b[e so]me, who from old age or bodily infi[rm]ities, and others who on account of [thei]r infancy, that will be unable to [su]pport themselves; it is [my] Will a[nd de]sire that all who [come under the first] and second descrip[tion shall be comfor]tably cloathed and [fed by my heirs while] they live; and [3] that such of the latter description as have no parents living, or if living are unable, or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the Court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty five years; and in cases where no record can be produced, whereby their ages can be ascertained, the judgment of the Court upon its own view of

[11] Washington numbered each page of the manuscript Will, and the bracketed figures in the text mark the beginning of each page of the manuscript. Many of Washington's numbers have been eliminated by the accidents of time. The word "Item" wherever it occurs was written in the left-hand margin of the page. Semicolons and periods have been substituted for the dashes which Washington used rather liberally throughout the Will, and the ampersand has been spelled out wherever it occurs; but the inadvertent pen slips have been faithfully reproduced.

the subject, shall be adequate and final. The Negros thus bound, are (by their Masters or Mistresses) to be taught to read and write;[12] and to be brought up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, providing for the support of Orphan and other poor Children. And I do hereby expressly forbid the Sale, or transportation out of the said Commonwealth, of any Slave I may die possessed of, under any pretence whatsoever. And I do moreover most pointedly, and most solemnly enjoin it upon my Executors hereafter named, or the Survivors of them, to see that *this* [cl]ause respecting Slaves, and every part thereof be religiously fulfilled at the Epoch at which it is directed to take place; without evasion, neglect or delay, after the Crops which may then be on the ground are harvested, particularly as it respects [4] the aged and infirm; Seeing that a regular and permanent fund be established for their Support so long as there are subjects requiring it; not trusting to the uncertain provision to be made by individuals. And to my Mulatto man William[13] (calling himself William Lee) I give immediate freedom; or if he should prefer it (on account of the accidents which have befallen him, and which have rendered him incapable of walking or of any active employment) to remain in the situation he now is, it shall be optional in him to do so: In either case however, I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars during his natural life, which shall be independent of the victuals and cloaths he has been accustomed to receive, if he chuses the last alternative; but in full, with his freedom, if he prefers the first; and this I give him as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and for his faithful services during the Revolutionary War.

[12] It is stated in E. E. Prussing's *Estate of George Washington, Deceased* (Boston: 1927), Chap. XIII, that this provision of the will could not be carried out because of the "black-laws" of Virginia which forbade the education of Negroes. The last of Washington's pensioned Negroes died in 1833.

[13] Known as "Billy."

Item To the Trustees (Governors, or by whatsoever other name they may be designated) of the Academy[14] in the Town of Alexandria, I give and bequeath, in Trust, four thousand dollars, or in other words twenty of the shares which I [5] hold in the Bank of Alexandria, towards the support of a Free school established at, and annexed to, the said Academy; for the purpose of Educating such Orphan children, or the children of such other poor and indigent persons as are unable to accomplish it with their own means; and who, in the judgment of the Trustees of the said Seminary, are best entitled to the benefit of this donation. The aforesaid twenty shares I give and bequeath in perpetuity; the dividends only of which are to be drawn for, and applied by the said Trustees for the time being, for the uses above mentioned; the stock to remain entire and untouched; unless indications of a failure of the said Bank should be so apparent, or a discontinuance thereof should render a removal of this fund necessary; in either of these cases, the amount of the Stock here devised, is to be vested in some other Bank or public Institution, whereby the interest may with regularity and certainby be drawn, and applied as above. And to prevent misconception, my meaning is, and is hereby declared to be, that these twenty shares are in lieu of, and not in addition to, the thousand pounds given by a missive letter some years ago; in consequence whereof an an[6]nuity of fifty pounds has since been paid towards the support of this Institution.

Item Whereas by a Law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the Legislature thereof was pleased (as a an evidence of Its approbation of the services I had rendered

[14] The Alexandria (Va.) Academy. It had been built in 1785 (Washington had assisted at the laying of the cornerstone with Masonic ceremonies). The building is still standing at the corner of Washington and Wolfe Streets. The trustees were incorporated in 1786 and in 1807 the bank stock was delivered to the trustees. In the course of time the academy became the Washington School and was merged into the public school system of Alexandria.

the Public during the Revolution; and partly, I believe, in consideration of my having suggested the vast advantages which the Community would derive from the extension of its Inland Navigation, under Legislative patronage) to present me with one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each, in the incorporated company established for the purpose of extending the navigation of James River from tide water to the Mountains: and also with fifty shares of one hundred pounds Sterling each, in the Corporation of another company, likewise established for the similar purpose of opening the Navigation of the River Potomac from tide water to Fort Cumberland; the acceptance of which, although the offer was highly honorable, and grateful to my feelings, was refused, as inconsistent with a principle which I had adop[7]ted, and had never departed from, namely, not to receive pecuniary compensation for any services I could render my country in its arduous struggle with great Britain, for its Rights; and because I had evaded similar propositions from other States in the Union; adding to this refusal, however, an intimation that, if it should be the pleasure of the Legislature to permit me to appropriate the said shares to *public uses,* I would receive them on those terms with due sensibility; and this it having consented to, in flattering terms, as will appear by a subsequent Law, and sundry resolutions, in the most ample and honourable manner, I proceed after this recital, for the more correct understanding of the case, to declare:

That as it has always been a source of serious regret with me, to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign Countries for the purpose of Education, often before their minds were formed, or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own; contracting, too frequently, not only habits of dissipation and extravagence, but principles unfriendly to Republican Governmt. and to the true and genuine liberties

[8] of mankind; which, thereafter are rarely overcome. For these reasons, it has been my ardent wish to see a plan devised on a liberal scale which would have a tendency to sprd. systematic ideas through all parts of this rising Empire, thereby to do away local attachments and State prejudices, as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought to admit, from our National Councils. Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is (in my estimation) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure than the establishment of a UNIVERSITY in a central part of the United States, to which the youth of fortune and talents from all parts thereof might be sent for the completion of their Education in all the branches of polite literature; in arts and Sciences, in acquiring knowledge in the principles of Politics and good Government; and (as a matter of infinite Importance in my judgment) by associating with each other, and forming friendships in Juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves in a proper degree from those local prejudices and habi[9]tual jealousies which have just been mentioned; and which, when carried to excess, are never failing sources of disquietude to the Public mind, and pregnant of mischievous consequences to this Country: Under these impressions, so fully dilated,

Item I give and bequeath in perpetuity the fifty shares which I hold in the Potomac Company (under the aforesaid Acts of the Legislature of Virginia) towards the endowment of a UNIVERSITY to be established within the limits of the District of Columbia, under the auspices of the General Government, if that government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it; and until such Seminary is established, and the funds arising on these shares shall be required for its support, my further WILL and desire is that the profit accruing

therefrom shall, whenever the dividends are made, be laid out in purchasing Stock in the Bank of Columbia, or some other Bank, at the discretion of my Executors; or by the Treasurer of the United States for the time being under the direction of Congress; provided that Honourable body should [10] Patronize the measure, and the Dividends proceeding from the purchase of such Stock is to be vested in more stock, and so on, until a sum adequate to the accomplishment of the object is obtained, of which I have not the smallest doubt, before many years passes away; even if no aid or encouraged is given by Legislative authority, or from any other source[15]

Item The hundred shares which I held in the James River Company, I have given, and now confirm in perpetuity to, and for the use and benefit of Liberty-Hall Academy, in the County of Rockbridge, in the Commonwealth of Virga.[16]

Item I release exonerate and discharge, the Estate of my deceased brother Samuel Washington, from the payment of the money which is due to me for the land I sold to Philip Pendleton (lying in the County of Berkeley) who assigned the same to him the said Samuel; who, by agreement was to pay me therefor. And whereas by some contract (the purport of which was never communicated to me) between the said Samuel and his son Thornton Washington, the latter became possessed of the aforesaid Land, without [11] any conveyance having passed from me, either to the said Pendleton, the said Samuel, or the said Thornton, and without any consideration having been made, by which neglect neither the legal nor equitable title has been alienated; it rests therefore with me to declare my

[15] The Potomac Company failed in 1828, and its shares became worthless and this provision of the Will consequently was never fulfilled.

[16] Liberty Hall was first known as Augusta Academy, then as Liberty Hall, next as Washington Academy, and finally as Washington and Lee University. This bequest is still in existence, and is a small, but honored part of the university's endowment.

intentions concerning the Premises; and these are, to give and bequeath the said land to whomsoever the said Thornton Washington (who is also dead) devised the same; or to his heirs forever if he died Intestate: Exonerating the estate of the said Thornton, equally with that of the said Samuel from payment of the purchase money; which, with Interest; agreeably to the original contract with the said Pendleton, would amount to more than a thousand pounds. And whereas two other Sons of my said deceased brother Samuel, namely, George Steptoe Washington and Lawrence Augustine Washington, were, by the decease of those to whose care they were committed, brought under my protection, and in conseqe. have occasioned advances on my part for their Education at College, and other Schools, for their board, cloathing, and other incidental expences, to the amount of near [12] five thousand dollars over and above the Sums furnished by their Estate wch. Sum may be inconvenient for them, or their fathers Estate to refund. I do for these reasons acquit them, and the said estate, from the payment thereof. My intention being, that all accounts between them and me, and their fathers estate and me shall stand balanced.

Item The balance due to me from the Estate of Bartholomew Dandridge deceased (my wife's brother) and which amounted on the first day of October 1795 to four hundred and twenty five pounds (as will appear by an account rendered by his deceased son John Dandridge, who was the acting Exr. of his fathers Will) I release and acquit from the payment thereof. And the Negros, then thirty three in number) formerly belonging to the said estate, who were taken in execution, sold, and purchased in on my account in the year and ever since have remained in the possession, and to the use of Mary, Widow of the said Bartholomew Dandridge, with their increase, it is my Will and desire shall continue, and be in her possession,

without paying hire, or ma[13]king compensation for the same for the time past or to come, during her natural life; at the expiration of which, I direct that all of them who are forty years old and upwards, shall receive their freedom; all under that age and above sixteen, shall serve seven years and no longer; and all under sixteen years, shall serve until they are twenty five years of age, and then be free. And to avoid disputes respecting the ages of any of these Negros, they are to be taken to the Court of the County in which they reside, and the judgment thereof, in this relation, shall be final; and a record thereof made; which may be adduced as evidence at any time thereafter, if disputes should arise concerning the same. And I further direct, that the heirs of the said Bartholomew Dandridge shall, equally, share the benefits arising from the Services of the said negros according to the tenor of this devise, upon the decease of their Mother.

Item If Charles Carter who intermarried with my niece [17] Betty Lewis is not sufficiently secured in the title to the lots he had of me in the Town of Fredericksburgh, it is my Will and desire that my Executors shall make such conveyances [14] of them as the Law requires, to render it perfect.

Item To my Nephew William Augustine Washington and his heirs (if he should conceive them to be objects worth prosecuting) and to his heirs,[18] a lot in the Town of Manchester (opposite to Richmond) No 265 drawn on my sole account, and also the tenth of one or two, hundred acre lots, and two or three half acre lots in the City, and vicinity of Richmond, drawn in partnership with nine others, all in the lottery of the

[17] On May 7, 1781. Carter was of Culpeper County.

[18] It is probable that the words "and to his heirs" immediately preceding the parenthesis, which are interlined in the Will, were added by Washington, on reading over this page and before he noticed the phrase immediately following the parenthesis. He let them stand rather than make an erasure, which would have required an additional note of explanation.

deceased William Bryd are given;[19] as is also a lot which I purchased of John Hood, conveyed by William Willie and Samuel Gordon Trustees of the said John Hood, numbered 139 in the Town of Edinburgh,[20] in the County of Prince George, State of Virginia

Item To my Nephew Bushrod Washington,[21] I give and bequeath all the Papers in my possession, which relate to my Civel and Military Administration of the affairs of this Country; I leave to him also, such of my private Papers as are worth preserving; and at the decease of [my] wife, and before, if she is not inclined to retain them, I give and bequeath my library of Books, and Pamphlets of every kind.[22]

[15] Item Having sold Lands which I possessed in the State of Pennsylvania, and part of a tract held in equal right with George Clinton, late Governor of New York, in the State of New York; my share of land, and interest, in the Great Dismal Swamp, and a tract of land which I owned in the County of Gloucester; withholding the legal titles thereto, until the consideration money should be paid. And having moreover leased, and conditionally sold (as will appear by the tenor of the said leases) all my lands upon the Great Kanhawa, and a tract upon Difficult Run, in the county of Loudoun, it is my Will and direction, that whensoever the Contracts are fully,

[19] See Washington's letter to Bushrod Washington, June 29, 1796, *ante*.

[20] Edinburgh. It was a paper town on the south side of the James River and was never settled.

[21] Eldest son of John Augustine Washington, the General's favorite brother, and the most "bookish" of all the nephews.

[22] The papers suffered some small spoliation while in Bushrod's possession; but the great losses occurred during the period of Jared Sparks's activities. While in his possession at Cambridge, the collection was sold to the United States in 1834, after the death of Bushrod Washington. In 1849 the remaining Washington manuscripts were sold to the Government by George Corbin Washington, nephew and heir of Bushrod, and son of Corbin Washington. Both purchases have been combined and are now in the custody of the Library of Congress. The larger part of Washington's books (the library) were sold in 1847 or 1848 to Henry Stevens and were purchased from him by a group of Boston gentlemen to prevent them being taken to England. They are now in the Boston Athenæum, which has published a catalogue of the collection.

and respectively complied with, according to the spirit, true intent and meaning thereof, on the part of the purchasers, their heirs or Assigns, that then, and in that case, Conveyances are to be made, agreeably to the terms of the said Contracts; and the money arising therefrom, when paid, to be vested in Bank stock; the dividends whereof, as of that also wch. is already vested therein, is to inure to my said Wife during her life; but the Stock itself is to remain, and [16] be subject to the general distribution hereafter directed.

Item To the Earl of Buchan I recommit "the Box made of the Oak that sheltered the Great Sir William Wallace after the battle of Falkirk" presented to me by his Lordship, in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request "to pass it, on the event of my decease, to the man in my country, who should appear to merit it best, upon the same conditions that have induced him to send it to me."[23] Whether easy, or not, to select *the man* who might comport with his Lordships opinion in this respect, is not for me to say; but conceiving that no disposition of this valuable curiosity can be more eligable than the recommitment of it to his own Cabinet, agreeably to the original design of the Goldsmith Company of Edenburgh, who presented it to him, and at his request, consented that it should be transfered to me; I do give and bequeath the same to his Lordship, and in case of his decease, to his heir with my grateful thanks for the distinguished honour of presenting it to me; and more especially for the favourable sentiments [17] with which he accompanied it.

Item To my brother Charles Washington I give and bequeath the gold headed Cane left me by Doctr. Franklin in his

[23] This box had been presented to the Earl by the Corporation of Goldsmiths of Edinburgh, Scotland. (See Washington's letter to the Earl of Buchan, May 1, 1792, *ante*.)

Will.[24] I add nothing to it, because of the ample provision I have made for his Issue. To the acquaintances and friends of my Juvenile years, Lawrence Washington and Robert Washington of Chotanck,[25] I give my other two gold headed Canes,[26] having my Arms engraved on them; and to each (as they will be useful where they live) I leave one of the Spy-glasses which constituted part of my equipage during the late War. To my compatriot in arms, and old and intimate friend Doctr. Craik,[27] I give my Bureau (or as the Cabinet makers call it, Tambour Secretary)[28] and the circular chair, an appendage of my Study. To Doctor David Stuart I give my large shaving and dressing Table, and my Telescope.[29] To the Reverend, now Bryan, Lord Fairfax, I give a Bible in three large folio volumes,[30] with notes, presented to me by the Right reverend Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man.[31] To General de la Fayette I give a pair of finely wrought steel Pistols, taken from the enemy in the

[24] A codicil to Franklin's will provides: "My fine crabtree walking stick, with a gold head curiously wrought in the form of a cap of liberty, I give to my friend, and the friend of mankind, General Washington. If it were a sceptre he has merited it; and would become it. It was a present to me from that excellent woman Madame de Forbach, the Dowager Duchess of Deux-Ponts, connected with some verses which should go with it." This cane was presented to the United States in 1843 by Samuel T. Washington, grandson of Charles. The verses have not survived. The cane is now in the National Museum, Washington, D. C.

[25] Direct descendants of Lawrence, the brother of John, the emigrant. Lawrence, the emigrant, had settled in the Chotanck region, a vaguely defined area on the south bank of the Potomac some miles above Westmoreland County. These legatees, Lawrence and Robert, belonged to the Lund and Townsend branch of the Washingtons and were the playmates of George, after his father's death (1743), when, seemingly, he was not settled at any one particular place, but spent much time away from the "Ferry Farm" near Fredericksburg in long visits with different relatives.

[26] The cane, bequeathed to Robert, is now in the possession of Lloyd W. Smith, of New Jersey.

[27] Dr. James Craik.

[28] The "Tambour Secretary" has been restored to Mount Vernon, and is now in its place in the library.

[29] Now in the possession of the Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, Ill.

[30] This Bible is now in the Library of Congress.

[31] Washington's mistaken recollection that it had been presented to him by the Rev. Thomas Wilson, *Bishop of Sodor and Man,* was due to the fact that it had been bequeathed to him by the son of the bishop, the Rev. Thomas Wilson, Prebendary of Westminster.

Revolutionary War. To my Sisters in law [18] Hannah Washington [32] and Mildred Washington; [33] to my friends Eleanor Stuart,[34] Hannah Washington of Fairfield,[35] and Elizabeth Washington of Hayfield,[36] I give, each, a mourning Ring of the value of one hundred dollars. These bequests are not made for the intrinsic value of them, but as mementos of my esteem and regard. To Tobias Lear, I give the use of the Farm [37] which he now holds, in virtue of a Lease from me to him and his deceased wife (for and during their natural lives) free from Rent, during his life; at the expiration of which, it is to be disposed as is hereinafter directed. To Sally B. Haynie (a distant relation of mine) I give and bequeath three hundred dollars. To Sarah Green daughter of the deceased Thomas Bishop, and to Ann Walker daughter of Jno. Alton, also deceased, I give, each one hundred dollars, in consideration of the attachment of their fathers to me, each of whom having lived nearly forty years in my family. To each of my Nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington, Bushrod Washington and Samuel Washington, I give one of the Swords or Cutteaux of which I may die pos[19]-sessed; and they are to chuse in the order they are named.[38]

[32] Hannah (Bushrod) Washington, widow of John Augustine Washington.

[33] Mildred (Thornton) Washington, widow of Charles Washington. Charles, however, was living when the Will was drawn up (July 9), but had died before it was probated.

[34] Eleanor (Calvert, Custis) Stuart, widow of John Parke Custis and wife of David Stuart.

[35] Hannah (Fairfax) Washington, of "Fairfield," wife of Warner Washington.

[36] Elizabeth (Foote) Washington, of "Hayfield," widow of Lund Washington.

[37] Now known as "Collingwood."

[38] William Augustine Washington, having first choice, chose what was considered the handsomest sword, a rapier with filigree handle and guard, and scabbard of white sharkskin. It is now in the New York State Library at Albany; but has been badly damaged by the fire of 1911.

George Lewis chose the sword which is said to have been worn by Washington when he resigned his commission at Annapolis, when he was inaugurated President of the United States, and on other dress occasions. This sword is now at Mount Vernon.

George Steptoe Washington, like William Augustine and George Lewis, chose a straight blade sword, which is now at Mount Vernon. It is badly rusted.

These Swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self defence, or in defence of their Country and its rights; and in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands, to the relinquishment thereof.

AND NOW

Having gone through these specific devises, with explanations for the more correct understanding of the meaning and design of them; I proceed to the distribution of the more important parts of my Estate, in manner following:

First To my Nephew Bushrod Washington and his heirs (partly in consideration of an intimation to his deceased father while we were Bachelors, and he had kindly undertaken to superintend my Estate during my Military Services in the former War between Great Britain and France, that if I should fall therein, Mount Vernon (then less extensive in domain than at present)[39] should become his property) I give and bequeath all that part thereof which is comprehen[20]ded within the following limits, viz: Beginning at the ford of Dogue run, near my Mill, and extending along the road, and bounded thereby as it now goes, and ever has gone since my recollection of it, to the ford of little hunting Creek at the Gum spring until

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Bushrod Washington chose a straight blade, Spanish dress sword, called "a mourning sword." It has a gilt hilt, and a gilt mounted black leather scabbard. The blade has been broken and mended by a gold band. This sword is now at Mount Vernon.

Samuel Washington (son of Charles) chose a plain cutteau, and the most valuable sword, historically, of the lot. The blade is slightly curved, the hilt, with a silver guard, is of green colored ivory, carved and spirally wound with silver wire. The scabbard is black leather with silver mountings, and is marked "J. Bailey, Fishkill." This sword is said to be the one used by Washington throughout the Revolutionary War, and is known as the "service sword." This sword was presented to the United States by Samuel T. Washington, grandson of Samuel, in 1843. It is now in the United States National Museum. The first four of the five swords were evidently selected on account of their appearance, and it is evident that the rapier, or straight blade sword, was more in favor than the cutteau, or curved blade. There is some reason to suppose that the "service sword" may have been used by Washington in the French and Indian War also.

[39] Washington has inserted a parenthesis here.

it comes to a knowl, opposite to an old road which formerly passed through the lower field of Muddy hole Farm; at which, on the north side of the said road are three red, or Spanish Oaks marked as a corner, and a stone placed.—thence by a line of trees to be marked, rectangular to the back line, or outer boundary of the tract between Thomson Mason and myself. thence with that line Easterly (now double ditching with a Post and Rail fence thereon) to the run of little hunting Creek. thence with that run which is the boundary between the Lands of the late Humphrey Peake and me, to the tide water of the said Creek; thence by that water to Potomac River. thence with the River to the mouth of Dogue Creek. and thence with the said Dogue Creek to the place of beginning at the aforesaid ford; containing upwards of four thousand Acres, be the same more or less; together with the Mansion house [21] and all other buildings and improvemts. thereon.

Second In consideration of the consanguinity between them and my wife, being as nearly related to her as to myself, as on account of the affection I had for, and the obligation I was under to, their father when living, who from his youth had attached himself to my person, and followed my fortunes through the viscissitudes of the late Revolution; afterwards devoting his time to the Superintendence of my private concerns for many years, whilst my public employments rendered it impracticable for me to do it myself, thereby affording me essential Services, and always performing them in a manner the most felial and respectful: for these reasons I say, I give and bequeath to George Fayette Washington, and Lawrence Augustine Washington[40]

[40] Sons of Maj. George Augustine Washington and Frances Bassett. George Fayette was the second of that name. That Washington should have written Lawrence Augustine Washington for Charles Augustine Washington is but another of the many evidences to be found in his last writings that age was taking its usual toll of him. Lawrence Augustine Washington was the son of Samuel Washington, who, with his brother George Steptoe Washington, had given the General so much annoyance in their school days.

and their heirs, my Estate East of little hunting Creek, lying on the River Potomac; including the Farm of 360 Acres, Leased to Tobias Lear as noticed before, and containing in the whole, by Deeds, Two thousand and Seventy seven acres, be it more or less. Which said Estate it is my Will and desire should be equitably, and advantageously divided between them, according to quantity, quality and other circumstances when [22] the youngest shall have arrived at the age of twenty one years, by three judicious and disinterested men; one to be chosen by each of the brothers, and the third by these two. In the meantime, if the termination of my wife's interest therein should have ceased, the profits arising therefrom are to be applied for thir joint uses and benefit.

Third And whereas it has always been my intention, since my expectation of having Issue has ceased, to consider the Grand children of my wife in the same light as I do my own relations, and to act a friendly part by them; more especially by the two whom we have reared from their earliest infancy, namely: Eleanor Parke Custis, and George Washington Parke Custis. And whereas the former of these hath lately intermarried with Lawrence Lewis, a son of my deceased Sister Betty Lewis, by which union the inducement to provide for them both has been increased; Wherefore, I give and bequeath to the said Lawrence Lewis and Eleanor Parke Lewis, his wife, and their heirs, the residue of my Mount Vernon Estate, not already devised to my Nephew Bushrod Washington, comprehended within the fol[23]lowing description. viz: All the land North of the Road leading from the ford of Dogue run to the Gum spring as described in the devise of the other part of the tract, to Bushrod Washington, until it comes to the Stone and three red or Spanish Oaks on the knowl. thence with the rectangular line to the back line (between Mr. Mason and me) thence with that line westerly, along the new double ditch to Dogue run,

by the tumbling Dam of my Mill; thence with the said run to the ford aforementioned; to which I add all the Land I possess West of the said Dogue run, and Dogue Crk. bounded Easterly and Southerly thereby; together with the Mill, Distillery, and all other houses and improvements on the premises, making together about two thousand Acres, be it more or less.

Fourth Actuated by the principal already mentioned, I give and bequeath to George Washington Parke Custis, the Grandson of my wife, and my Ward, and to his heirs, the tract I hold on four mile run in the vicinity of Alexandria, containing one thousd. two hundred acres, more or less,[41] and my entire Square, number twenty one, in the City of Washington.[42]

[24] Fifth All the rest and residue of my Estate, real and personal, not disposed of in manner aforesaid. In whatsoever consisting, wheresoever lying, and whensoever found, a schedule of which, as far as is recollected, with a reasonable estimate of its value, is hereunto annexed: I desire may be sold by my Executors at such times, in such manner, and in such credits (if an equal, valid, and satisfactory distribution of the specific property cannot be made without), as, in their judgment shall be most condusive to the interest of the parties concerned; and the monies arising therefrom to be divided into twenty three equal parts, and applied as follows, viz:

To William Augustine Washington,[43] Elizabeth Spotswood,[44] Jane Thornton,[45] and the heirs of Ann Ashton;[46] son, and

[41] A facsimile of a survey by Washington of this tract is in Custis's *Recollections of Washington*, p. 445, and is reproduced in the *George Washington Atlas* (pl. 21) (Washington: 1932), edited by Lawrence Martin.

[42] Washington signed each page of the Will except page 23, the one omission being, presumably, another inadvertence of age and failing vision, as it will be noted that page 23 ends with the word "Washington."

[43] Of Westmoreland, son of Augustine, the General's half-brother, whom Washington called "Austin."

[44] Elizabeth married Gen. Alexander Spotswood.

[45] Jane married Col. John Thornton.

[46] Ann married Burdett Ashton. The only child of this union who lived was a daughter, Sarah Ashton.

daughters of my deceased brother Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath four parts; that is, one part to each of them.

To Fielding Lewis, George Lewis, Robert Lewis, Howell Lewis and Betty Carter, sons and daughter of my deceased Sister Betty Lewis, I give and bequeath five other parts, one to each of them.

To George Steptoe Washington, Lawrence Augustine Washington, Harriot [25] Parks, and the heirs of Thornton Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased brother Samuel Washington, I give and bequeath other four parts, one part to each of them.

To Corbin Washington, and the heirs of Jane Washington,[47] Son and daughter of my deceased Brother John Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath two parts; one part to each of them.

To Samuel Washington, Frances Ball [48] and Mildred Hammond,[49] son and daughters of my Brother Charles Washington, I give and bequeath three parts; one part to each of them. And to George Fayette Washington Charles Augustine Washington and Maria Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased Nephew Geo: Augustine Washington, I give one other part; that is, to each a third of that part.

To Elizabeth Parke Law,[50] Martha Parke Peter,[51] and Eleanor Parke Lewis, I give and bequeath three other parts, that is a part to each of them.

And to my Nephews Bushrod Washington and Lawrence Lewis, and to my ward,[52] the grandson of My wife, I give and bequeath one other part; that is, a third thereof to each of them.

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[47] Jane married her cousin, William Augustine Washington, of "Wakefield."
[48] Frances married Burges Ball.
[49] Mildred married Thomas Hammond.
[50] Elizabeth [Eliza] Parke Custis married Thomas Law.
[51] Martha Parke Custis married Thomas Peter.
[52] George Washington Parke Custis.

And if it should so happen, that any of these persons whose names are here ennumerated (unknown to me) should now [26] be deceased, or should die before me, that in either of these cases, the heirs of such deceased persons shall, notwithstanding, derive all the benefits of the bequest; in the same manner as if he, or she, was actually living at the time.

And by way of advice, I recommend it to my Executors not to be precipitate in disposing of the landed property (herein directed to be sold) if from temporary causes the Sale thereof should be dull; experience having fully evinced, that the price of land (especially above the Falls of the Rivers, and on the Western Waters) have been progressively rising, and cannot be long checked in its increasing value. And I particularly recommend it to such of the Legatees (under this clause of my Will) as can make it convenient, to take each share of my Stock in the Potomac Company in preference to the amount of what it might sell for; being thoroughly convinced myself, that no uses to which the money can be applied will be so productive as the Tolls arising from this navigation when in full operation (and this from the nature of things it must be 'ere long) and more especially if that of the Shanondoah is added thereto.

[27] The family Vault at Mount Vernon requiring repairs, and being improperly situated besides, I desire that a new one of Brick, and upon a larger Scale, may be built at the foot of what is commonly called the Vineyard Inclosure, on the ground which is marked out.[53] In which my remains, with those of my deceased relatives (now in the old Vault) and such others of my family as may chuse to be entombed there, may be deposited. And it is my express desire that my Corpse may be Interred in a private manner, without parade, or funeral Oration.

[53] The new vault (the present one) was built in 1830–31 by Lawrence Lewis and George Washington Parke Custis.

Lastly I constitute and appoint my dearly beloved wife Martha Washington, My Nephews William Augustine Washington, Bushrod Washington, George Steptoe Washington, Samuel Washington, and Lawrence Lewis, and my ward George Washington Parke Custis (when he shall have arrived at the age of twenty years) Executrix and Executors of this Will and testament, In the construction of which it will readily be perceived that no professional character has been consulted, or has had any Agency in the draught; and that, although it has occupied [28] many of my leisure hours to digest, and to through it into its present form, it may, notwithstanding, appear crude and incorrect. But having endeavoured to be plain, and explicit in all the Devises, even at the expence of prolixity, perhaps of tautology, I hope, and trust, that no disputes will arise concerning them; but if, contrary to expectation, the case should be otherwise from the want of legal expression, or the usual technical terms, or because too much or too little has been said on any of the Devises to be consonant with law, My Will and direction expressly is, that all disputes (if unhappily any should arise) shall be decided by three impartial and intelligent men, known for their probity and good understanding; two to be chosen by the disputants, each having the choice of one, and the third by those two. Which three men thus chosen, shall, unfettered by Law, or legal constructions, declare their Sense of the Testators intention; and such decision is, to all intents and purposes to be as binding on the Parties as if it had been given in the Supreme Court of the United States.

[29] In witness of all, and of each of the things herein contained, I have set my hand and Seal, this ninth day of July, in the year One thousand seven hundred and ninety[54] and of the Independence of the United States the twenty fourth.

[54] The word "nine" was omitted inadvertently by Washington. The will, accompanied by the "Schedule of property," was presented for probate and proved at Fairfax County Court, Jan. 20, 1800.

* Schedule of property comprehended in the foregoing Will, which is directed to be sold, and some of it, conditionally is sold; with discriptive, and explanatory notes[55] relative thereto.

In Virginia

Loudoun County

	acres	price	dollars
Difficult run	300		6,666 (*a*)

(*a*) This tract for the size of it is valuable, more for its situation than the quality of its soil, though that is good for Farming; with a considerable portion of grd. that might, very easily, be improved into Meadow. It lyes on the great road from the City of Washington, Alexandria and George Town, to Leesburgh and Winchester; at Difficult bridge, nineteen miles from Alexandria, less from the City and George Town, and not more than three from Matildaville at the Great Falls of Potomac.

There is a valuable seat on the Premises, and the whole is conditionally sold, for the sum annexed in the Schedule

Loudoun and Fauquier[56]

Ashbys Bent	2481	$10	24,810	(*b*)
Chattins Run	885	8	7,080	

(*b*) What the selling prices of lands in the vicinity of these two tracts are, I know not; but compared with those above the ridge, and others below them, the value annexed will appear moderate; a less one would not obtain them from me.

Berkeley[57]

So. fork of Bullskin	1600			
Head of Evans's M.	453			
On Wormeley's line	183			
	2236	20	44.720	(*c*)

[55] In the original the descriptive "Notes" are grouped after the "Schedule of property," but they are here printed with the "Schedule" for convenience.

[56] The Ashby's Bent and Chattin's Run lands were on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge near Upperville.

[57] These lands were in what is now the southern part of Jefferson County, W. Va.

(*c*) The surrounding land, not superior in Soil, situation or properties of any sort, sell currently at from twenty to thirty dollars an Acre. The lowest price is affixed to these

Frederick[58]

Bought from Mercer[59] ..... 571... 20... 11.420 (*d*)

(*d*) The observations made in the last note applies equally to this tract tract; being in the vicinity of them, and of similar quality, altho' it lyes in another County

Hampshire

On Potk River above B ..... 240... 15... 3.600 (*e*)

(*e*) This tract, though small, is extremely valuable. It lyes on Potomac River about 12 miles above the Town of Bath (or Warm springs) and is in the shape of a horse Shoe; the river running almost around it. Two hundred Acres of it is rich low grounds; with a great abundance of the largest and finest Walnut trees; which, with the produce of the Soil, might (by means of the improved Navigation of the Potomac) be brought to a shipping port with more ease, and at a smaller expence, than that which is transported 30 miles only by land.

Gloucester

On North River ..... 400... abt... 3.600 (*f*)

(*f*) This tract is of second rate Gloucester low grounds. It has no improvement thereon, but lyes on navigable water, abounding in Fish and Oysters. It was received in payment of a debt (carrying interest) and valued in the year 1789 by an impartial Gentleman to £800. N B. it has lately been sold, and there is due thereon, a balance equal to what is annexed the Schedule[60]

Nansemond

Near Suffolk 1/3 of 1119 acres ..... 373.... 8... 2.984 (*g*)

(*g*) These 373 acres are the third part of undivided purchases made by the deceased Fielding Lewis Thomas Walker and myself; on full

[58] The Frederick tract was near Berryville, Clarke County. It became "Audley," the home of Nelly Custis Lewis, until her death.

[59] Either James Mercer, or Col. George Mercer.

[60] The Gloucester tract had been sold to George Ball, and a balance of $3,600 was due on the purchase.

conviction that they would become valuable. The land lyes on the Road from Suffolk to Norfolk; touches (if I am not mistaken) some part of the Navigable water of Nansemond River; borders on, and comprehends part of the rich Dismal Swamp; is capable of great improvement; and from its situation must become extremely valuable.

Great Dismal Swamp

My dividend thereof..... abt... 20.000 (*h*)

(*h*) This is an undivided Interest wch. I held in the Great Dismal Swamp Company; containing about 4000 acres, with my part of the Plantation and Stock thereon belonging to the Company in the sd Swamp.[61]

Ohio River

Round bottom.....	587		
Little Kanhawa.....	2314		
16 miles lowr down.....	2448		
Opposite Big Bent.....	4395		
	9744...	10...	97.440 (*i*)

(*i*) These several tracts of land are of the first quality on the Ohio River, in the parts where they are situated; being almost if not altogether River bottoms.

The smallest of these tracts is actually sold at ten dollars an acre but the consideration therefor not received; the rest are equally valuable and will sell as high, especially that which lyes just below the little Kanhawa and is opposite to a thick settlement on the West side the Rivr.

The four tracts have an aggregate breadth upon the River of Sixteen miles and is bounded thereby that distance.

Great Kanhawa

Near the Mouth West.....	10990		
East side above.....	7276		
Mouth of Cole River.....	2000		
Opposite thereto.....	2950		
Burning Spring.....	125		
	23341.....		200.000 (*k*)

[61] The Dismal Swamp property was sold to Gen. Henry Lee ("Light Horse Harry"), who was unable to meet the payments, and in 1799 relinquished the purchase.

(*k*) These tracts are situated on the Great Kanhawa River, and the first four are bounded thereby for more than forty miles. It is acknowledged by all who have seen them (and of the tract containing 10990 acres which I have been on myself, I can assert) that there is no richer, or more valuable land in all that Region; They are conditionally sold for the sum mentioned in the Schedule; that is $200.000 and if the terms of that Sale are not complied with they will command considerably more. The tract of which the 125 acres is a moiety, was taken up by General Andrew Lewis and myself for, and on account of a bituminous Spring which it contains, of so inflamable a nature as to burn as freely as spirits, and is as nearly difficult to extinguish

Maryland

Charles County	600	6	3.600	(*l*)
Montgomery Do	519	12	6.228	(*m*)

(*l*) I am but little acquainted with this land, although I have once been on it. It was received (many years since) in discharge of a debt due to me from Daniel Jenifer Adams at the value annexed thereto, and must be worth more. It is very level, lyes near the River Potomac

(*m*) This tract lyes about 30 miles above the City of Washington, not far from Kittoctan. It is good farming Land, and by those who are well acquainted with it I am informed that it would sell at twelve or $15 pr. acre.[62]

Pennsylvania

Great Meadows	234	6	1.404	(*n*)

(*n*) This land is valuable on account of its local situation and other properties. It affords an exceeding good stand on Braddocks road from Fort Cumberland to Pittsburgh, and besides a fertile soil, possesses a large quantity of natural Meadow, fit for the scythe. It is distinguished by the appellation of the Great Meadows, where the first action with the French in the year 1754 was fought.

New York

Mohawk River	abt. 1000	6	6.000	(*o*)

(*o*) This is the moiety of about 2000 Acs. which remains unsold of 6071 Acres on the Mohawk River (Montgomery Cty) in a Patent granted

[62] This Montgomery County land became known, later, as "Woodstock Manor," and was, eventually, obtained by Thomas Peter.

to Daniel Coxe in the Township of Coxeborough and Carolana, as will appear by Deed from Marinus Willet and wife to George Clinton (late Governor of New York) and myself. The latter sales have been at Six dollars an acr; and what remains unsold will fetch that or more

North Westn. Territy[63]

On little Miami	839
Ditto	977
Ditto	1235
	3051 .... 5 .... 15.251 (*p*)

(*p*) The quality of these lands and their Situation, may be known by the Surveyors Certificates, which are filed along with the Patents. They lye in the vicinity of Cincinnati; one tract near the mouth of little Miami, another seven and the third ten miles up the same. I have been informed that they will readily command more than they are estimated at.

Kentucky

Rough Creek	3000
Ditto adjoing	2000
	5000 .... 2 .... 10.000 (*q*)

(*q*) For the description of these tracts in detail, see General Spotswoods letters, filed with the other papers relating to them. Besides the General good quality of the Land, there is a valuable Bank of Iron Ore

[63] These Northwest Territory lands were situated to the east of Cincinnati in Franklin and Miami Townships, Clermont County, Ohio. The region was known as the Virginia Military District of Ohio and Virginia had granted thousands of acres therein to her Colonial and Revolutionary War soldiers, the warrants for which had then been bought and sold in the open market like stock certificates. Washington had purchased two of these warrants, one from John Rootes, who held a Lord Dunmore grant, and one from Thomas Cope. But he had refused to accept his quota of these Virginia bounty lands which amounted to 23,333⅓ acres, on the same principle by which he refused pay for his services as Commander in Chief. The warrants for the 3,051 acres purchased were entered by the deputy surveyor of the Virginia Military District in accordance with the Virginia law of 1783; but owing to the changes in land entry procedure, brought about by Virginia's cession of her western lands to the United States, it became possible to secure title, by sharp practice, to lands already granted, where the strict letter of a complicated law had not been complied with. His mind occupied by important national concerns, Washington failed to take every necessary legal step to perfect his title to these Ohio lands, and his claim was "jumped" by a collusion of clever and unscrupulous individuals. E. E. Prussing's *Estate of George Washington, Deceased,* has a full explanation of the matter.

thereon: which, when the settlement becomes more populous (and settlers are moving that way very fast) will be found very valuable; as the rough Creek, a branch of Green River affords ample water for Furnaces and forges.

Lots—viz.

City of Washington

Two, near the Capital, Sqr 634 Cost $963; and with Buildgs	15000 (*r*)
No. 5. 12. 13. and 14: the 3 last, Water lots on the Eastern Branch, in Sqr. 667. containing together 34.438 sqr. feet a 12 Cts	4.132 (*s*)

(r) The two lots near the Capital, in square 634, cost me 963$ only; but in this price I was favoured, on condition that I should build two Brick houses three Story high each: without this reduction the selling prices of those Lots would have cost me about $1350. These lots, with the buildings thereon, when completed will stand me in $15000 at least.[64]

(*s*) Lots No. 5. 12. 13 & 14 on the Eastn. branch, are advantageously situated on the water, and although many lots much less convenient have sold a great deal higher I will rate these at 12 Cts. the square foot only.

Alexandria

Corner of Pitt and Prince Stts. half an Acre; laid out into buildgs. 3 or 4 of wch. are let on grd. Rent at $3 pr. foot	4.000 (*t*)

(*t*) For this lot, though unimproved, I have refused $3500. It has since been laid off into proper sized lots for building on; three or 4 of which are let on ground Rent, forever, at three dollars a foot on the Street. and this price is asked for both fronts on Pitt and Princes Street.

Winchester

A lot in the Town of half an Acre and another in the Commons of about 6 Acs. supposed	400 (*u*)

[64] The houses were unfinished when Washington died; but were completed in the year 1800. The British burned them in 1814. The location is now within the Capitol Grounds and a bronze marker identifies the site.

(*u*) As neither the lot in the Town or Common have any improvements on them, it is not easy to fix a price, but as both are well situated, it is presumed the price annexed to them in the Schedule is a reasonable valun.

Bath—or Warm Springs

Two Well situated, and had buildings to the amt of £150 ... 800 (*w*)

(*w*) The Lots in Bath (two adjoining) cost me, to the best of my recollection, betwn. fifty and sixty pounds 20 years ago; and the buildings thereon £150 [mo]re. Whether property there has [increased] or decreased in its value, [and in wha]t condition the houses a[re, I am ignora]nt. but su[ppose they are not valued to]o high

Stock

United States 6 pr Cts		3746		
Do	defered	1873	2500	6.246 (*x*)
	3 pr Cts	2946		

(*x*) These are the sums which are actually funded. And though no more in the aggregate than $7.566; stand me in at least ten thousand pounds Virginia money. being the amount of bonded and other debts due to me, and discharged during the War when the money had depreciated in that ratio, and was so settled by public authoy.[65]

Potomack Company

24 Shares, cost ea £100 Sterg ... 20.666 (*y*)

(*y*) The value annexed to these sha: is what they have actually cost me, and is the price affixed by Law: and although the present selling price is under par, my advice to the Legatees (for whose benefit they are intended, especially those who can afford to lye out of the money) is

[65] The act of Aug. 4, 1790, provided for the foreign debt and for funding the domestic debt of the United States. It authorized a loan for the full amount of the latter. Subscribers to this loan were given United States certificates for two-thirds of the amount of their subscription, carrying interest at 6% per annum, payable quarterly. For the remaining one-third of the subscription a United States certificate was given, not bearing interest until the year 1800, after which it would, like the first, bear interest at 6% per annum, payable quarterly. These certificates were known as the "6% stock of 1790." For subscriptions to the loan paid by "indents of interest" of the domestic debt, computed to Dec. 31, 1790, United States certificates were given, bearing interest of 3% per annum, payable quarterly. These certificates were known as the "3% stock of 1790."

that each should take and hold one; there being a moral certainty of a great and increasing profit arising from them in the course [of a] few years.

James River Company

5 Shares, each cost $100 ..... 500 (z)

(z) It is supp[osed] that the Shares in the James Ri[ver] Company must also be productive. But of this I can give no decided opinion for want of mo[re accur]ate informatn.

Bank of Columbia

170 Shares, $40 each 6.800

Bank of Alexandria, besides 20 to the Free School 5 ..... 1.000 (&)

(&) T[hese are no]minal prices of the [Shares of the Banks] of Alexandria and Co[lumbia, the selling prices] vary accordin[g to circumstances.] But as the Stock [usually divided from] eight to ten per[cent per annum, they] must be worth [the former, at least,] so long as the [Banks are conceived] to be Secure, [though from circumstan]ces may, so[me times be below it.]

Stock, living, viz:

1 Covering horse, 5 Coh.[66] horses; 4 riding do; Six brood Mares; 20 working horses and mares; 2 Covering Jacks, and 3 young ones; 10 she Asses, 42 working Mules; 15 younger ones 329 head of horned Cattle 640 head of Sheep, and a large Stock of Hogs, the pricise number unknown ☞ My Manager has estimated this live Stock at £7,000 but I shall set it down in order to make rd sum at 15.653

Agregate amt $530.000

The va[lue of live]stock depends more up[on the qua]lity than quantity of the [differen]t species of it, and this again [upon] the demand, and judgment [or fan]cy of purchasers.

[66] Coach.

Mount Vernon
9th. July 1799

Go: WASHINGTON

At a Court held for the Coun[ty of] Fairfax the 20th. January 1800 This Last Will and Test[ament of] George Washington deceased late president of the United States [of Am]erica, was presented in C[ourt] by George Steptoe Washingtan [Samue]l Washington and Lawrence Lewi[s], three of the Executors [therein name]d, who made oat[h thereto, and] the same being [proved by the] oath of Charles [Little, Charles Simms and Ludwell Lee, to be in the true handwriting of the said Testator, as al]so the Schedule thereto [annexed, and the said will,] being sealed and signed [by him on motion, Ordered] to be recorded. and the [said Executors having given Securi]ty and performed what the Laws req[uire, a Certificate is] granted them for obtaining a probate thereof [in due form.]

Test. G. DENEALE, *Cl: Fx:*[67]

To THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Mount Vernon, July 10, 1799.

Sir: When I quitted the Chair of Government it was my full determination not to apply to the Executive in behalf of any person for an appointment, knowing the trouble and inconvenience which I must experience myself as well as give to others without forming this resolution. In some instances I have, however, been obliged to depart from this rule, where, from particular connexions or circumstances I am called upon to be the channel of application in a way that I cannot refuse, without being thought unkind or uncivil. But as few instances of this kind occur, I shall not have occasion to trouble you often in this way.

[67] The first pages of the Will and the last pages of the Schedule are badly damaged by the accidents of time. The missing words are from Ford's text and are inclosed in brackets. The text of both the Will and the Schedule of property, which Ford evidently took from one of the early publications, have been carefully corrected from a facsimile of the original Will, which is in the Fairfax County Court House.

Inclosed is a letter from General Spotswood, expressing a wish to have one of his sons appointed a Midshipman in the Navy of the U. S. As I am unacquainted with the regulations established in your department with respect to appointments, I am not able to judge how far the request made by Genl. Spotswood for his Son can be complied with. On this you will determine; and whatever answer you may think proper to give, I will thank you to transmit to me that I may forward it accordingly.

As I have no personal knowledge of the young man, altho a relation of mine, I cannot say how far he may be qualified for the place which is asked. I have the honor etc.[68]

*To JAMES McALPIN

Mount Vernon, July 14, 1799.

Sir: Your letters of the 24th. and 27th. Ulto. have come duly to hand; and, persuaded as I am that, you have used your best endeavours to furnish my uniform Coat, agreeably to the regulations of the War department, I thank you for your exertions; although they have failed of the desired effect.

Some years ago (while the Governmt. was in New York) I had a cloke well embroidered there (at the instance of a Mr Bahr, who was then my Taylor), possibly, the same person, or some other, might be found there still, to do it, if Mr. Bahr is living and was applied to.

If a failure takes place there also, and the Coat is not already embarked for Europe, let it remain as at present, and inform me of the state of, and what can be done with it. I am etc.[69]

[68] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

[69] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, July 14, 1799.

My dear Sir: After reading, and putting a wafer into the inclosed letter, be so kind as to send it as directed.

The young Cornet (in my family)[70] is anxious to receive his Military equipments. Daily fruitless enquiries are made of me to know when they may be expected. Perhaps if you were to jog Mr. Francis, the *Purveyor,* the sooner they might be *Purveyed,* and the young gentleman gratified.

I wish them to be handsome, and proper for an Officer, but not expensive. In my last on this subject, I requested that the Sword might be silver mounted, but any other mount, such as the Officers of Cavalry use, would answer just as well. With esteem etc.[71]

*To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your wishes, respecting your Son George, I have communicated to the Secretary of the Navy; although it is contrary to a determination I had entered into (when I left the Chair of Government) not to be the medium through which applications for appointments should be made; and from which I have not (before) deviated, except in the Military line, since it has been made my duty, consequent of my own appointment, to present them.

If the Secretary of the Navy should return any answer to my letter, you will be informed of the purport of it. I must question,

[70] George Washington Parke Custis.

[71] From a recent copy in the *McHenry Photostats* in the Library of Congress.

however, whether your proposition will comport with the rules of the Navy Department. In a word, I should not suppose that any persons will be received as Midshipmen, until they enter the ship, and perform the duties. The contrary (as I know the applications are numerous) would carry with it an appearance of favoratism which I should think, our government would not wish to be charged with.

If in the Military line, any characters should present themselves to you which are rightly deserving of *Regimental* appointments, I shall be obliged to you for sending in their names to me; as the Secretary of War has requested me to be provided with these, in case the President, in the recess of Congress, shd. think it expedient to raise the eventual Army of twenty four Regiments. Field and Artillery Officers for four Regiments,...[72] allotted through this State, as nearly as may be to the population of the different parts, will be required, if this measure should take place.

I would thank you for asking, (when an opportunity presents itself) the Executor or person who has the keeping of the late Mr. James Mercer's Papers, for a conveyance from "George and James Mercer Esqrs., and Messrs. Lind & Covenove to me" the land purchased of them on four Mile run in this County. Having occasion to overhaul my land Papers lately this conveyance was missing; but the following memo.... (that is the one just mentioned (was sent March 15th. 1787 to... to draw a Deed of conveyance...

This confirming... properly executed and recorded... other could not have been... as it is not to be found among my Papers. It is useless to... and is no otherwise essential... ing recorded) than in case of accident to the records; and for

[72] The manuscript is mutilated. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

the . . . of having my title . . . possession, that record may . . . them more easily.

All here are well, and unite in best regards to yourself the family, with Dear Sir etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To BENJAMIN DULANY

Mount Vernon, July 15, 1799.

Sir: As I grow no Tobacco, and probably never shall, I have it in contemplation to make some material changes in the œconomy of my Farms.

To accomplish this object, a reduction of the present force on them is necessary; of course, the means by which it is to be effected, must have undergone consideration.

Presuming then that it might be agreeable to Mrs. French, or to you, to whom they will ultimately revert, I am induced by a scene of propriety and respect; and from a persuation that every humane owner of that species of property would rather have it in his own keeping, than suffer it to be in the possession of others, to offer you all the Negros I hold, belonging to that Estate.

And as an evidence of my disposition to act fairly, and liberally, in the business; the whole of them, old, middle aged and young, shall be produced to three disinterested and judicious men, one to be chosen by Mrs. French or yourself, one by me, and the third by those two. The judgment of whom (after comparing the old with the young, and the chances of increase and decrease) shall be conclusive as to the annuity which is to be allowed me, or mine, for, and during the term for which they, at present, stand engaged.

On July 15 Secretary Stoddert forwarded a warrant for young Spotswood and on July 21 Washington forwarded it to Spotswood. The press copy of this letter in the New York Public Library is entirely illegible, except a few words of the P. S.: "I advise your Son George to take a copy of this . . . that he may never forget what he is bound . . ."

That you may be enabled to form an opinion of their usefulness, from the kind of Negros I am making you an offer of, I enclose a list of them, with remarks, which and their ages, I believe to be accurate; and the reason for giving them at this season of the year, is, that, if either Mrs. French or yourself is disposed to accede to the offer, you may have time to make arrangements accordingly.

For the same reason, an answer, so soon as you can conveniently decide upon the measure, would be very agreeable to Sir, Yours etc.[73] [N.Y.P.L.]

* A LIST OF NEGROES HIRED FROM MRS. FRENCH

Names	Ages	Remarks
Will	Old, but hearty	Looks after the Stock. Wife at Mrs. French's
Abram	in his prime	Wife at Muddy hole——Nancy
Paschall	Ditto	No wife. lately lost—Cornelia—M H
Tom	Ditto 28	No wife. getting Blind.
Isaac	Ditto 29	Ditto——lives at Muddy hole Farm
Moses	Ditto 26	Plowman and Carter
James	24	At the Distillery
Julius	23	Carter
Spencer	20	Ditto and Mower
Sabine	60	Husband.
Lucy	55	Ditto. McCarty's George. A Knitter
Daphne	40	Ditto—Simms Carpenter. Plougher
Delia	35	No Husband——Spinner
Grace	28	Husband. Mrs. Washns. Davy—— Plougher
Siss	25	Ditto——Do——Jack—Ditto
Milly	18	No Husband.
Nancy	16	Ditto
Hannah	14	Ditto
Daniel	16	Son of Delia's
Isaac	14	Do——of Rose——deceased
Matilda	13	Daughr of Daphne.
Betty	13	Ditto——Delia
Briney	12	Ditto——Lucy
Grace	12	Ditto——Rose——deceased

[73] The following brief postscript, or addition to this letter, exists in press copy form also in the New York Public Library. As far as decipherable it is as follows: "[illegible] of them. They are [illegible] very likely and healthy people; [illegible] going off, of a fellow called Paul (four or 5 years ago) are as orderly, and [illegible] set, as any equal number [illegible]."

Children

Stately	10	Son of	Lucy's
Renney	6	Daughr	Ditto
Raison	3	Do	Do
Morgan	2	Son	Do
Phoenia	1	Do	Do
Polly	9	Daughr of	Daphne's
Maria	2	Do	Do
Jack	7	Son of	Delia
Julia	4	Daugh	Do
Nelly	2	Ditto	Do
Ambrose	1	Son	Do
Bob	10	Do of	Grace
Sall	8	Daugh	Do
Judy	4	Ditto	Do
Augusta	1	Ditto	Do
Nancy	10	Ditto of	Sabine

Men	9	In all	40 [74]
Women	9		
Workg. Boy's and Girls	6		
Children	16		

*To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, July 17, 1799.

Dear Sir: Enclosed are Notes for two hogsheads of Tobacco, as below, Nanjemoy Warehouse, paid me for Rent. If you can sell them in George Town, it would oblige me; either for Cash or on a moderate credit. If you can not, they may be returned, or retained until I come up to the meeting of the Potomac Company the first Monday (5th day) of next Month in George Town.

I earnestly hope that this meeting will be full, and effectual, for in my opinion it has become indispensible.

All here are well, and unite with me in best wishes for you and yours. I am etc.

[74] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

Mark	No.	Gross	Tare	Nett	
GD	249	1136	96	1040	date June 21st 1799
	250	1122	100	1022	

Will Adams Inspect [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM ROBERTS

Mount Vernon, July 17, 1799.

Mr. Roberts: Your letter of the 12th instant is received, and I am obliged to you for the advice respecting the management of the flour I had on hand; which however, is less necessary now, as I have disposed of it all.

I should be glad to render you any consistent service in my power, but must decline writing to the Gentleman you have mentioned, on the subject proposed; first, because I am entirely unacquainted with the circumstances attending your disputed property; and secondly, because I have not the honor to be acquainted with Mr Hay or Captn. McNamara, who you inform me are employed to defend that property.

Gentlemen of the character you (no doubt deservedly) give Mr Hay and Captn. McNamara, can stand in no need of a stimula from me to rescue your property from a fraudulent conveyance, and thereby enable you to come to me the sooner. I wish you well and am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON

Mount Vernon, July 21, 1799.

Dear Sir: Having received a printed letter myself, from the President and Directors of the Potomack Company dated the 2d

instant the presumption is, that it is a circular Address to the Stockholders: and much indeed is it to be wished that *all of them* would attend in *person,* rather than by *substitution.*

Greatly is it to be regretted that an Undertaking productive of, or rather promising such immense advantages to the States of Virginia and Maryland particularly the latter; and of such pecuniary emoluments to the Proprietors; should be suffered to progress so limpingly, as this work has done for some years back.

If this Navigation was completed and it is susceptible of being so in a short time; and the Shenandoah opened which is a work neither difficult or expensive and will as certainly follow the other as Night follows day, being suspended only thereby. I wd. predict, without fear of having my judgment arraigned by the result, that it wd. be found one of (if not) the most productive funds (with the least risk to the Stockholders) of any Legalised Institution in the United States.

I speak within bounds, when I give it as my decided opinion, that it cannot fall short of 50 pr Ct pr Ann. The best credence I can advise of my thorough conviction of this fact, is, that if I had the means, and was anxious to provide for those who may step into my Shoes, when I go hence, I would not hesitate a moment to complete the work at my own expence receiving proportionate Tolls.

It might be as unjust as improper, to censure the conduct of the Directors, or any of them, but if the means can be obtained I shall declare for having the residue of the Work executed by Contract (under the Inspection of the Directors), fixing the sum, and stipulating the time to be employed thereon.

I propose to be at the Genl. Meeting of the Co at George Town the 5th of next month, and should be happy to find you there, being with much esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Mount Vernon, July 21, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your favour of the 22d. Ulto got to my hands yesterday, *only*. It came safe, and without any apparent marks of violence; but whence the length of its passage, I am unable to inform you.

To you, and to your brother Colo. Jno Trumbull, I feel much indebted for the full, frank, and interesting communication of the political sentiments contained in both your letters.

The project of the latter is rash and under any circumstances would require very mature consideration; but in its extent, and an eye being had to the disorganizing Party in the United States, I am sure it would be impracticable in the present order of things.

Not being able to convey my ideas to you on this subject in more concise terms than I have already done to your brother in answer to the letter he informs you he has written to me I shall take the liberty of giving you an extract thereof, as follow.

For the Political information contained in it (that is his letter) I feel grateful, as I always shall for the free . . .[75] and within the short period which you suppose may be allowed to accomplish it.

I come now, my dear Sir, to pay particular attention to that part of your Letter which respects myself.

I remember well the conversation which you allude to, and have not forgot the answer I gave you. In my judgment it applies with as much force *now,* as *then;* nay more, because at that time the line between Parties was not so clearly drawn, and the views of the opposition, so clearly developed as they are at present; of course, allowing your observation (as it respects myself) to be founded, personal influence would be of no avail.

[75] The omitted portion is the same as that in Washington's letter to John Trumbull, June 25, 1799, *q. v.*

Let that party set up a broomstick and call it a true son of Liberty; a Democrat, or give it any other epithet that will suit their purpose, and it will command their votes in toto! as an analysis of this position, look to the pending Election of Governor in Pennsylvania. Will not the Federalists meet them or rather defend their cause, on the opposite ground? Surely they must, or they will discover a want of Policy, indicative of weakness, and pregnant of mischief which cannot be admitted. Wherein then would lye the difference between the present Gentleman[76] in Office, and myself?

It would be matter of sore regret to me if I could believe that a serious thot. was turned towards me as his successor; not only as it respects my ardent wishes to pass through the vale of life in retiremt., undisturbed in the remnant of the days I have to sojourn here, unless called upon to defend my Country (which every citizen is bound to do), but on Public ground also; for although I have abundant cause to be thankful for the good health with whh. I am blessed, yet I am not insensible to my declination in other respects. It would be criminal therefore in me, although it should be the wish of my Countrymen, and I could be elected, to accept an Office under this conviction, which another would discharge with more ability; and this too at a time when I am thoroughly convinced I should not draw a *single* vote from the Anti-federal side; and of course, should stand upon no stronger ground than any other Federal character well supported; and when I should become a mark for the shafts of envenomed malice, and the basest calumny to fire at; when I should be charged not only with irresolution, but with concealed ambition, which waits only an occasion to blaze out; and, in short, with dotage and imbecility.

All this I grant, ought to be like dust in the balance, when put in competion [*sic*] with a *great* public good, when the

[76] President John Adams.

accomplishment of it is apparent. But as no problem is better defined in my mind than that principle, not men, is now, and will be, the object of contention; and that I could not obtain a *solitary* vote from that Party; that any other respectable Federal character would receive the same suffrages that I should; that at my time of life, (verging towards three score and ten) I should expose myself without rendering any essential service to my Country, or answering the end contemplated: Prudence on my part must arrest any attempt at the well meant, but mistaken views of my friends, to introduce me again into the chair of Government.

Lengthy as this letter is, I cannot conclude it without expressing an *earnest* wish that, some intimate and confidential friend of the Presidents would give him to understand that, his long absence from the Seat of Government in the present critical conjuncture, affords matter for severe animadversion by the friends of government; who speak of it with much disapprobation; while the other party chuckle at and set it down as a favourable omen for themselves. It has been suggested to me to make this Communication; but I have declined it, conceiving that it would be better received from a private character, more in the habits of social intercourse and friendship. With the most sincere friendship, and Affectionate regard, etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To JOHN FITZGERALD

Mount Vernon, July 27, 1799.

Dear Sir: Recollecting that you had some doubt, At the last General Meeting of the Potomack Company, concerning the

On July 24 Washington wrote to the Secretary of War, acknowledging the receipt of several recommendations of persons in Kanawha County for military appointments and forwarding a letter from Gustavus B. Wallace, jr., of King George County, requesting an appointment in the cavalry. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

validity of your Powers to represent the State of Virginia in its interest therein, I wish to know whether those doubts have been removed by the Treasurer *now* in Office.

The Stockholders are called upon, I perceive by a Printed (and I presume circular) letter in precise terms to attend the next Genl Meeting in George Town the 5th. of next month, to consider, and decide on an important measure. Much is it to be regretted, that a work of such public utility and (if executed) of such immense advantage to the Undertakers, should be forced to go limpingly on as that has done; particularly to the injury of those individuals who (in effecting [illegible] red to promote the completion of it.

If you have not powers of sufficient validity to justify your voting on this occasion, I hope, to your [illegible] they will be given before the meeting; and if they are sufficient let me pray you to attend, and in time, for it is really necessary as well for the reputation as interest of the Company that the business should be rescued from its present Sloth.

I shall make a point of it, to be at the Union Tavern in George Town on the day appointed and by 11 oclock unless prevented by sickness; and in that case shall appear by Proxy; and I shall feel much chagreen if the State of Virginia is unrepresented thereat. With great esteem and regard I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To SAMUEL M. FOX

Mount Vernon, July 28, 1799.

Sir: By the hands of Mr. Jolly, I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 20th. instant. and fifteen hundred dollars which you had the goodness to send, and he to bring, in Southern Notes, on account of money deposited in the Bank of Pennsylvania for my use, by Judge Addison in part payment of the deceased Matthew Ritchies Bond.

For your kind attention to this business, I pray you to accept the best thanks of Sir Your etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To W. B. WALLACE[77]

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1799.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 24th instant, wherein you offer yourself as a Candidate for an appointment in the Provisional Army.

Measures are now taking to select proper Characters for Officers in this Army, and as it is desireable to obtain those who have had experience in military affairs, and are otherwise qualified, your application will meet with due attention whenever the appointments take place.

And in the mean time I will thank you to suggest to me the names of such persons within your knowledge, as are fit and willing to serve as Regimental or Company officers in case they should be appointed thereto; for my personal knowledge of Characters in this State is too confined to enable me, from that alone, to select proper Characters for the officers of four Regiments, which is the proportion aloted to Virginia; I must therefore obtain information from every source in my power of those who are qualified and willing to serve without giving any assurance of appointment as that must depend on the will of the President and Senate of the United States. With esteem etc.[78]

*To MRS. E. GRAVATT[79]

Mount Vernon, July 29, 1799.

Madam: I have been honoured, but not so soon as might have been expected from the date, with your favour of the 4th. of

[77] Of Stafford County, Va.
[78] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.
[79] Of London, England.

January last, and wish, sincerely, that it was in my power to give you a more satisfactory answer than follows.

You will have been informed from the correspondence with Mr. Montagu, with which you seem to be acquainted, that the Mortgage of Lands, &ca. given by Colo. George Mercer to Mr. Gravatt and Miss Wroughton or the Power of Attorney to sell the sum was contested by the Mortgagees of the same property in this Country, under an authority vested by him, to his brother and James Mercer; and that it was necessary to institute a suit in our High Court of Chancery before any ulterior measures could be pursued with respect to either of the Powers. The result of which was a Decretal order to *sell* the Estate subject to a *final* decree, with respect to the different claimants.

This was accordingly done (on twelve months credit, agreeably thereto) in November 1774, and Bonds, with security, taken for payment of the purchase money. Before these became due in Novr. 1775, the dispute between this Country and Great Britain became serious. In May, I was sent by the State of Virginia as one of its delegates to Congress; and by Congress to command the Armies of the United States the June following. Clearly foreseeing that this dispute was not likely to terminate shortly, I wrote to Colo. Tayloe (the other acting Attorney) and before the Bonds became due desiring him to collect, and deposit the money agreeably to the Decree of the Court, as I cd. render no further assistance, and would not be responsible for any proceedings thereafter.

The view I had taken of the dispute was confirmed by the event; and excepting the short period of the Siege of York, I was upwards of eight years absent from this State suffering material wrongs in my own private concerns, because I could bestow no attention on them, which I mention, merely as an evidence of my incapacity to attend to those of others.

The deranged state into which the war had thrown matters in this Country, and the shutting up our Courts of business for the first years of it; and Colo. Tayloe's death happening soon after, I was much pressed by the Claimants on Colo. Mercer's Estate in this Country, but always refused, to renew my Agency in that concern. In consequence of which, Colo. John Francis Mercer, another brother of Colo. George Mercer, having a large claim on his estate, applied for, and obtained a decree of the same Court of Chancery, to receive *all* the monies due on the Sales, subject, as in the former case, to the final decision of the Chancellor.

This statement is given from memory, all the papers relative to the business having passed from me in consequence of the above decree, but I believe it may be depended upon as substantially accurate. What the present Agent has done, or how the matter now stands, is unknown to me. He has removed from Virginia into Maryland, and resides near Annapolis; and is a Gentleman of property.

With respect to the advance of Six thousand pounds on Land belonging to Colo. George Mercer, situated on the River Ohio, I can say nothing; because the subject is now, unconnected entirely with the business on which I was formerly concerned. Colo. Mercer has or had, some very valuable Lands in that Region; but in whose possession they are now, or under what predicament they may be found, I know not.

I wish it had been in my power to have answered your letter more satisfactorily but my public duties compelled me to relinquish the trust, with which I was vested at the commencement of our Revolution. It was placed in the hands of the Gentleman whose name I have given you, two or three years before the close of it, and my own business have been so much deranged by an absence [illegible] short intervals) of twenty five years

from home, as to require all my attention to recover [illegible] I have the honor etc.[80] [N. Y. P. L.]

To CHARLES JOLLY

Mount Vernon, July 30, 1799.

Sir: I am quite ashamed of the error I committed, in passing my receipt to you for fifteen, instead of fifteen hundred dollars which you had the Kindness to be the bearer of from the Bank of Pennsylvania for my use.

The notes of Columbia (the greater part) being for small sums it required some time to get at the amount of them: this circumstance, writing to Mr. Fox, and fear that I was detaining you, as you were under engagement to dine in Alexandria occasioned hurry, and the consequent mistake.

I hope I was more correct in my acknowledgment to the President of the Bank of Pennsylvania. It was my intention to be so in both cases. I am etc.[81]

*To DOCTOR WILLIAM BAYNHAM[82]

Mount Vernon, July 30, 1799.

Sir: The bearer [illegible] my Ploughman,[83] has, for some months past, been afflicted with a tumour which has occasioned

[80] See various letters of Washington to George Mercer (vol. 3) concerning this matter and a group of letters in the Appendix.

On July 29 Washington wrote to Daniel Morgan, acknowledging a duplicate of Morgan's letter to the Secretary of War, recommending sundry persons for military appointment. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

On this same day (July 29) Washington wrote also to William Berkeley, the Treasurer of Virginia, concerning John Fitzgerald's authority to represent Virginia at the coming annual meeting of the Potomac Company at Georgetown. A press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

[81] From a tracing of the original in the West Virginia Department of Archives and History, through the kindness of Clifford R. Myers, State historian and archivist.

[82] Of Essex County, Va.

[83] The plowman's name was Tom.

partial, and threatens (if relief can not be obtained) total blindness.[84]

He has been under the care of Doctor Craik and others, without receiving much, if any benefit; and being desirous of relieving him from so serious a malady, if he can accomplish it, I send him to you.

What operation it will be necessary for him to undergo, how long to stay with you; or what expence to incur, you better than I, can decide. The [illegible] you will be the judge of, and the latter you will add to your Bill.

I would thank you for a line by the first Post (after your rect. of this letter advising me of his arrival; and [illegible] *medium of conveyance* of his departure. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, July 31, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favored in the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and thank you for the kind information given in it respecting the removal of Mr. Duval to Kentucky; and your intention of embracing the earliest opportunity of inquiring after the conveyance from the deceased James Mercer, Esq. etc. to me.

Inclosed is the deed from General Lee to me for the land he sold me, lying on Rough creek in Kentucky, now sent for the purpose of transmission by Mr. Duval to Peyton Short Esq. to whom, having received a very polite tender of his service in Kentucky, civility (as he will be the medium through which the business is to be transacted) required I should write.

I leave my letter to him, covering the Deed, open for your perusal; requesting that you would be so good as to inclose it

[84] Dr. Baynham operated on both eyes.

in one from yourself to Mr. Short; and in a particular manner recommending them to the care of Mr. Duval.

If eighteen months are allowed by the laws of Kentucky for the admission of proof, there is yet sufficient time for Lee's Deed to me to be recorded in that State. If otherwise, Mr. Short, I persuade myself, will advise me thereof.

I think your determination to qualify your son for the duties he will have to perform is highly proper. It will give him confidence in himself and advantages in the eyes of his superior officers, which cannot but be serviceable to his rise in the navy.

Mr. Thom's name shall be entered on my list, and his pretensions duly considered and compared when an arrangement of the whole is to be made.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in every good wish for yourself, Mrs. Spotswood and family, and I am etc.[85]

*To PEYTON SHORT

Mount Vernon, July 31, 1799.

Sir: I avail myself of your obliging offer (when last in Virginia) to serve me in Kentucky, by requesting the favour of you to have the Deed, herewith sent admitted to Record in the County of Kentucky, in which the land may *now* be, if a devision of Jefferson has been made since the granting of the Patent, originally.

This Land was conveyed to me by Genl Lee, and is of Record in the Territory of the Commonwealth before Kentucky was acknowledged as a State; but I thot. it best, on account of some little informalities, (which, however, would not have affected the title) to have the business take its present shape, wch makes it necessary to be of Record in the County and State in which the land is situated.

[85] From a copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

Not knowing with precision, what time is allowed by the Laws of Kentucky for proofs of this kind, the Deed may come to your hands out of season. Should this happen, I would thank you to adivse me in order that I may be certain of its having got to your hands, you would do me a favour in acknowledging the receipt [illegible] under any circumstances.

The expence attending this business, be what it may, will, with thanks also, be most chearfully paid by Dear Sir Your etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, August 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: I shall be obliged to you for letting Mr. Blagden know, that I forsee nothing, at present, that will prevent my being at the Union Tavern in George Town on Monday next (the 5th instant) by eleven oclock. When, and where, if he will attend I shall be provided with, and ready to pay him, a thousand Dollars in Columbia Notes.

I thank you for the information, and sentiments given in your last favour of the 19th. Ulto, which came duly to hand; and for your kind invitation to lodge at your House: but as the same cause which takes me up, will, at least ought to carry Mr Law there also, one, if not both the families at whose Houses we usually lodge will be there.

With very great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 4, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 18th ulto. came to hand in due course, of the Mail, and I thank you for the information contained in it.

Is it not time to learn *officially,* and *unequivocally;* the result of the Presidents message, and consequently (I presume) intimation to the French Government, respecting the appointment of Envoys to Treat with it?

Having no Church nearer than Alexandria (nine miles distant) I usually postpone writing, or answering letters that do not require immediate attention, until then; that the regular exercise I take, and the avocations which employ me, may be less interrupted.

On this principle, the present acknowledgment of your letter (above) has been delayed, and thereby a question which I intended to propound in it I find solved, in the Aurora which came to hand last night.

The question I allude to, is, whether the Officers of Government intended to be acquiescent under the direct charge of bribery, exhibited in such aggrivated terms by the Editor of the above Paper? The most dangerous consequences would in my opinion, have flowed from such silence, and therefore could not be overlooked. and yet, I am persuaded that if a rope, a little longer had been given him, he would have hung himself up something worse; if possible: for there seems to be no bounds to his attempts to destroy all confidence, that the People might, and (without sufficient proof of its demerits) ought to have, in their government; thereby dissolving it, and producing a disunion of the States. That this is the object of such Publications as the Aurora and other Papers of the same complexion teem with, those who "run may read." the motives which are ascribed to them, notwithstanding.

They dare not, at present act less under cover; but they unfold very fast; and like untimely fruit, or flowers forced in a hot bed, will, I hope, whatever my expectation may be, soon wither and in principle, die away like them.

All of the Administration, or some of the members are now to look to it, for Mr. Duane[86] I perceive, in his address to the Public on the occasion of his arrest, has assured it "that he has not published a *fact* which he cannot prove, and that neither persecution nor any other peril to which *bad* men may expose him, can make him swerve from the cause of republicanism." With very great esteem etc.

*To GEORGE WALKER

Mount Vernon, August 7, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 5th instant was presented to me yesterday, on my way home, and not read until I reached it.

As I have no concern in public matters, unconnected with Military duties; so it is neither my *wish,* or intention, to interfere with them, if they do not relate to myself personally. Having neither Doctr. Thornton's letter nor my answer to it before me, I mean to express no sentiment on either; or on the subject to which they related, further than that, a question was askd me to which I gave an answer from the best recollection I had of the case.

Because you have requested it, and forasmuch as I had no opportunity of complying therewith while I was in the City, I *now* enclose your letter *to me* of the above date, to the Commissioners.[87] The list transmitted therein you will receive under this cover. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

[86] William Duane.

On August 4 Washington wrote to Jeremiah Olney, thanking him for [Jonathan] Moxcy's oration. This letter is in the Rhode Island Historical Society.

[87] On August 7 Washington wrote briefly to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, forwarding Walker's letter. The press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

*To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1799.

My dear Sir: Daily expectation of Genl Washington's[88] arrival must be received as my apology for not having given your obliging favour of the 25th. of June, an earlier acknowledgment. He did not on account of the indisposition of his Son, in North Carolina) reach this place until the 6th. instant. He left us yesterday, with the young Gentleman, both in good health and Spirits.

Permit me to offer you my best thanks for the Plumes you had the kindness to send me; which are, indeed, very handsome. Colo. Lear has, I presume, done the same in the enclosed letter; and the one for Captn. Thornton (for the whole came hither in a general case) shall be sent to him by the first safe conveyance to Fredericksg. his recruit Station.

I thank you too, my good Sir, for the transcript of Major Mountflorence's letter to you, which is an interesting one. But whether the knowledge the French Directory has of the President's appointment of three Envoys, to treat, on certain previous stipulations, in France; and their reverse of fortunes, may not have given a different complexion to the business, remains to be decided. I wish this Nomination and appointment, may not be productive of ambarrassmt. in the measures of this Government.

Had the Gentleman,[89] whose name is mentioned in Montflorences letter, been actually appointed as the Negociator of Peace, little doubt remains in my mind of his acceptance thereof;

[88] Brig. Gen. William Washington.
[89] Lafayette.

notwithstanding the admonitions which had been given him of the delicate situation in which he would be involved, in a visit to the United States at this crisis of our affairs, in any capacity whatsoever.

Lest Captain Thornton should not have been written to by you, or seen your orders appointing him one of your Aids, and have understood that you do not require his attendance to the Southward, I will cause him to be advised.[90]. . .

Recruiting in the . . . has progressed tolerably well, . . . others it is at a stand; and indeed . . . tion that can be . . . the enemies to our government. . . . In a word, the Aurora, . . . which emanate from it, . . . which supports the same . . . are endeavouring by every . . . and alarm, to create . . . Law, insubordination in . . . In short, to prostrate . . . introduce anarchy in the Military . . . have attempted to do in the Civil government of this Country.

When, where, and how such things are to terminate, is beyond the reach of human Ken; but . . . they cannot progress much further without an explosion. Indeed . . . the Aurora (if one . . . publications) seem desirous . . . Crisis. His inuendos, and charges . . . longer to be borne, and . . . to his account (and I have no doubt . . .) there is a contest in Philadelphia for the honor of becoming his Bail . . . other things, in language, and . . . impossible to be misunderstood, the Government is not only accused of being under . . . influence, but of bribery to a considerable amount. If the semblance of this . . . fair and impartial investigation of the case shall appear, I will not only acknowledge myself to be among those who . . . in the Officers of it, but . . . him, not only a bold, but a . . . Printer; deserving of thanks, and high reward for bringing to light conduct so abominable. On the other hand,

[90] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

if it shall be found that it is all calumny . . . ted to poison the minds of the People . . . disquietude, destroy all confidence in Public functionaries, prostrate the government and produce disunion of the States . . . punishment ought to be inflicted on such . . . and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are from home; the rest of the family unite in every good wish . . . Mrs Pinckney whose indisposition . . . rest of the family; and I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 11, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your private letters of the 29th. Ulto. and 5th. instant, have been duly received. Mr. Bordley for presenting, and you for forwarding his Essays on Husbandry, are entitled to, and, accordingly receive, my thanks for these instances of both your kindnesses.

(Confidential)

I think you Wise men of the East, have got yourselves into a hobble, relatively to France, Great Britain, Russia and the Porte, to which, Allow me the priviledge of adding our worthy Demos. All cannot be pleased! Whom will you offend? Here then is a severe trial for your Diplomatic skill, in which the Editor of the Aurora says you are great adepts. But to be serious, I think the nomination, and appointment of Ambassadors to treat with France would, in any event, have been liable to unpleasant reflections (after the Declarations wch have been made), and in the present state of matters, in Europe, must be exceedingly Embarrassing. The President has a choice of difficulties before him, in this business; If he pursues the line he marked out, *all* the consequences cannot be foreseen: If he relinquishes it, it will be said to be of a piece with all the other Acts of the

Administration; unmeaning if not wicked, deceptious, &ca., &ca, &ca.; and will arm the opposition with fresh weapons to commence new attacks upon the Government, be the turn given to it, and reasons assigned, what they may. I come now, to the Scene of Bribery.

And pray, my good Sir, what part of the $800,000 have come to your share? As you are high in Office, I hope you did not disgrace yourself in the acceptance of a paltry bribe. a 100,000 $ perhaps. But here again I become serious. There can be no medium between the reward and punishment of an Editor, who shall publish such things as Duane has been doing for sometime past. On what ground then does he *pretend* to stand in his exhibition of the charges, or the insinuations which he has handed to the Public? Can hardihood, itself be so great, as to stigmatise characters in the Public Gazettes for the most heinous offences, and when prosecuted, pledge it-self to support the alligations unless there was something to build on? I hope and expect that the Prosecutors will probe this matter to the bottom. It will have an unhappy effect on the public mind if it be not so.

But how stands the charge, in verity and truth with respect to the Consul General (Stephens) purchase of Coffee, and breach of trust; or in other words taking advantage of his official knowledge to monopolise that article at a low price? This thing made a good deal of noise among the friends as well as the enemies of government; and if true, proves him unworthy, altogether, of public confidence; and denominates him a mercenary [illegible] one who would do anything for lucre.

Is the President returned to the seat of Government? When will he return? His absence (I mention it from the best motives) gives much discontent to the friends of government, while its enemies chuckle at it, and think it a favourable omen for them. I am always your affecte.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Mount Vernon, August 11, 1799.

Dear Sir: A day or two after my last letter to you was sent to the Post Office, I received your obliging favour of the 2d. instant.

The embarrassments occasioned by the late appointment of Envoys, begin now to shew themselves; and must place the Government, whether it advances towards or retreats from the object, from which they were appointed, in a delicate situation. Of the two evils, the least no doubt will be chosen. I wish this may be pleasant in its operation.

The advantage taken of a Presidential trust, and monopoly of [office by] our Agent in St. Domingo,[91] is spoken of in severe terms by friends, as well as the enemies of our Government. With very great esteem etc.

*To WILLIAM BERKELEY[92]

Mount Vernon, August 11, 1799.

Sir: I thank you for your prompt answer of the 1st. instant to my letter of a preceeding date; and for the Power of Attorney enclos'd therein for Colo. Fitzgerald, as Proxy to represent the State at the General Meeting of the Potomack Company, lately held at George Town, the 5th. past.

It appearing at this meeting, that Colo. Fitzgerald was duly authorised by you, to act in behalf of the State, I return the Power you were so obliging as to send him, under cover to me. And my anxiety that the State should be duly represented on

[91] Edward Stevens, United States Consul General at San Domingo.
[92] Treasurer of Virginia.

that occasion, is the best apology I can make for the trouble I have given you.

I have only to add, as an earnest wish, that the Commonwealth of Virginia would afford its aid to the mode which was then adopted to raise money; and lend its influence to carry a Work of such utility into complete effect. I have no hesitation in giving it as my decided opinion, that in a pecuniary point of view alone, putting the policy of the measure entirely out of sight, there is no way in which it can employ its money more advantageously. To dilate on the benefits which would result from improving the great *high way* which nature has marked out as the easiest, and most direct communication with the Western World (maugre all the endeavours of Pennsylvania and New York to divert it into other Channels) would be a mere waste of time; because every one who is disposed to investigate the subject must see them at the first glance. But it must be acknowledged at the sametime, that habits and customs are not easily overcome. consequently, if the produce of upper Ohio, and the Lakes should settle in either of the channels above mentioned, it will require time, as well as convenience, to bring it back into the course which nature has ordered, and which ultimately it will effect. Excuse these sentimts, and believe me to be etc. [N. Y. P. L.]

*To RICHARD KIDDER MEADE

Mount Vernon, August 12, 1799.

Dear Sir: I should have acknowledged the receipt of your favor of the 22d. Ultimo before this, had I not been for sometime in daily expectation of seeing Genl Wm. Washington, to whom I wished to communicate the contents of it. The General was here a few days since, when I put your recommenda-

tion of Captn. Edmund Taylor for Brigade Inspector into his hands, and as he is gone on to Philadelphia, I presume that he will, while there, have the proper arrangements made on the subject.

Can you, my dear Sir, give me any assistance in selecting proper characters from this State, to Officer four Regiments of Infantry which is the proportion allotted to Virginia of the 24 Regts. authorized to be eventually raised? The Secy. of War sometime since requested me to furnish him with names of suitable characters for this purpose.

From a variety of circumstances my personal acquaintance with the inhabitants of this State has become very limited. To others then, on whom I can rely, I must look for information. But . . .[93] had only a small proportion of the names recommended to me, and these confined principally to particular spots, when it is the Secretarys duty to have them dissiminated through the State. Whether this is owing to its not being generally known that he . . . determined to take preparatory . . . to facilitate the raising of this Corps, or to . . . recommending characters for particular . . . with their own consent, when it is uncertain . . . appointed or not, I cannot say. . . . unable to select proper . . . for the command of the Regiments from . . . of the State, and through them obtain the selection of the Company Officers, of their respective Regiments.

If any persons occur to you as being well qualified and willing to accept appointments in the eventual Army; you will much oblige me by handing their names, with such information respecting them as you may be able to obtain, and on which I shall place great reliance.

Mrs. Washington unites in respects, and best wishes to Mrs. Meade and yourself with Dr Sir etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

[93] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 12, 1799.

Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 7th inst, enclosing recommendations in favor of Mr James Glenn for a Captaincy in the Provisional Army; and shall attend to your request to return this, and similar papers, whenever the list for Virginia shall be completed.

But, Sir, I must candidly acknowledge to you that I see no prospect of completing the selection of Officers from this State, for the Provisional Army, within any reasonable time, if at all unless some other measure than that now pursued shd. be adopted.

When, agreeably to your request, I assured you of my readiness to promote, so far as was in my power, the President's wish to select officers for the 24 Regiments authorized to be raised, I very candidly stated to you the circumstances which had prevented my having such personal knowledge of Characters in this State as would enable me to make a selection here without the assistance of others; and, at the same time, submitted to your consideration, whether the President's views might not be carried into effect with more facility and dispatch by having his determination to appoint these Officers made known in such a manner as to give an opportunity to all who were desireous of serving to come forward with their pretensions; Or, that proper Characters for the command of the Regiments should be appointed in the several Districts and power given to them, with the assistance of their Majors (who shd. also be previously selected) to appoint the Company Officers of their respective Regiments. For the rejection of the first of these propositions you have given me your reasons. To the second I do not recollect that I have had any reply.

I must, however, endeavour to impress you with the necessity of adopting some other mode for Officering those Regiments, at least in this State, than that which has been pursued, if it is intended that the Officers shall be appointed before the meeting of Congress; for, with all my endeavours to obtain information respecting characters who are fit and willing to serve, I find that very few indeed have been brought forward, and these only from particular places. Immediately upon receiving your request to aid in this business, I wrote to several influential and confidential Characters, requesting them to furnish me with the names of such persons within their districts or the sphere of their acquaintance as were qualified and would be willing to accept appointments. From these sources I have obtained but little information. Genl. Marshall, Colo. Carrington and Colo. Heth on whom I placed great dependence for information have not furnished me with any except in two or three cases. From Genl. Lee I have received only a single letter on the subject and that recommendg one person. Genl. Morgan has been so good as to recommend a number of Characters; but they are confined to a particular part of the State. Colo. Cropper, of the Eastern Shore, has signified to me his willingness to accept the command of a Regiment, and has promised to furnish a list of names for other offices; but this selection will be limited to a few Counties, or at most to one district. I have also given every encouragement in my power to others to come forward with recommendations or offers of service; but without effect. And, indeed, it can hardly be expected that persons would interest themselves in pointing out Characters for offices unless there was a degree of certainty that they would be appointed. I shall, however, continue my endeavours to comply with your wishes in the way you desire; unless some other mode shd. be adopted. Enclosed is a letter from Captn. George S. Washington with a

recommendation of John Atwell, to be appointed a Cadet in his Company, vice Stephens, who is promoted to a first lieutenancy. So far as I am acquainted with the Subscribers to this recommendation they are respectable Characters, and may be relied upon. With due consideration etc.[94]

To MAJOR PRESLEY PETER THORNTON

Mount Vernon, August 12, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have in my care a plume sent by General Pinckney for your acceptance, which shall be forwarded to you by the first convenient opportunity, or sent agreeably to your directions, if any mode of conveying it should occur to you.

General Pinckney informs me that he has mentioned you as his Aid in General Orders; but that he does not think it necessary for you to make a journey to Carolina for the purpose of joining his family at present. If, in any event, your attendance should be necessary before General Pinckney comes into this State (which he expects to do in the ensuing fall) he will undoubtedly advise you thereof.

I hope the recruiting business goes on with more spirit in your quarter than I am informed it has done of late. The arrival of Clothing &c. will, I think give a spring to it. Mrs. Washington unites with me in Compliments to Mrs. Thornton. With great esteem etc.[94]

*To THOMAS LAW

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 10th came to hand yesterday; and since you have desired it, the subject of this shall be confined to Mr. Carrolls lot *only*.

[94] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

I am not at all solicitous to purchase it; nor shall I pronounce the price he has set upon it, high, or low. The situation *alone* constitutes the value of it in my estimation, . . .[95] the purchaser thereof . . . *three* things; two of which I have little expectation of his acceding to.

First, the quantum of square feet in the lot; for the amount, of which pr foot, is the criterion by which . . . is to be tested. and is a matter of my own.

Second, a pretty considerable credit, paying interest; . . . desired, however, without interest, and

Third, to be under no obligation to improve the lot sooner than it shall conform with my own convenience; and that will depend upon circumstances not at present, under my controul.

You will perceive that, Mr. Carroll . . . with respect to the two last point . . . for my determination on the first, and until the result is known I must be Mum; so far as it respects . . . and always etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, August 14, 1799.

Sir: Enclosed are sundry Letters (as mentioned on the other side) which have come to my hands, recommending Captain Edmund Taylor[96] and Captain William K. Blue[97] for the Office of Brigade Inspector.

As this Officer is to be appointed by the Inspector General I forward these letters for your consideration; and add, that I have not a personal knowledge of the Gentlemen recommended which can enable me to give any further information respecting their merits or pretensions. With very great regard etc.

[95] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.
[96] Edmund Haines Taylor. He was captain in the Eighth Infantry, Provisional Army.
[97] Captain in the Seventh Infantry, Provisional Army.

List of Letters enclosed.
Letter from Colo. Richd K Meade recommendg Captn. Taylor
Do from Colo. Thomas Parker recommendg ditto.
Do from Colo. Leven Powell recommendg Captn Blue
Do from Colo. Thomas Parker recommendg ditto
Do from Colo. T. Blackburn recommendg ditto[98]

*To JOHN FRANCIS[99]

Mount Vernon, August 14, 1799.

Sir: It is reported, and generally believed that the Houses I am building in the Federal City are engaged to you.

To your having the houses I have no objection, nor should I have any to the prevalence of the report, if a specific agreement had ever taken place. But as this is not the case, and until it happens may, and doubtless will be injurious to me, inasmuch as they may prevent applications from others, it has become necessary that this matter should be clearly understood.

It is not my intention, nor is it my wish, on the one hand, to ask an unreasonable rent; on the other hand, I am not disposed to be a loser by that building. I have made the best enquiries my opportunities have afforded, into the expectations of others with respect to Rents, and find none who are inclined to let their property in the Federal City or any where else indeed, for less than seven and an half pr. cent on the whole expenditure: to which they add the taxes thereon, and that of Insurance against Fire. Some, I am told, will not accept of this as an equivalent Rent, because it will give them little (if any more they say) than *common* interest for their money; when it is well known that the ware and Tare of houses require much more.

[98] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[99] Of Philadelphia, Pa.

Upon the terms, however, herementioned, having no . . .[1] inducement to build) you may become the occupant of my lots and the Improvements thereon in the Federal City; keeping them in repair as is customary; and it rests with you to say yea, or nay, to make it a bargain, or otherwise. The whole amount of the cost can, and shall be shown to the minutest fraction, to whomsoever is disposed to accede to these terms; because the prices of the lots are known, and everything being new, . . . ready, and can easily be shewn to any one.

You may reasonably, and justly suppose that the Lots are obtained upon the best terms, because building . . . the condition thereof; and because the materials were procured without credit, for I pay on demd. for them, and the Workmens wages. All parts of the Work will, I persuade myself, from the character of the Undertaker, be well executed, and in a neat and handsome but not costly style.

With this explanation and information, you will be requested to give a definitive answer; which I shall shortly expect, that I may know whether to consider you as a Tenant or not. One of the Houses, by contract is to be finished in November next, the other in March following. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To FRANCIS DEAKINS

Mount Vernon, August 17, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 10th. Inst enclosing a letter from Mr. Veatch of the 7th. instant, came duly to hand. The receipt of which ought to have been sooner acknowledged as he appears to be waiting directions.

I am very well satisfied with the Rents of my part of Woodstock as they now stand; but if you, on consulting Mr. Veatch,

[1] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

should be of opinion that they could be placed on a better footing now, or at any time hence, it would be equally agreeable to me that you should make the alteration and it shall be confirmed by Dear Sir Your etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, August 18,[2] 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 7th. instant came duly to hand, but being received with many other letters, it was laid by, and entirely forgotten, until I came across it yesterday again. Mr. Ariss's draught on Mr. James Russell for £42 pounds shall be presented to him, but if he is indisposed to pay it, or wants time to do it, he has a good pretext for delay, as you have sent it without your Endorsement, although made payable to *you*.

Of the facts related in the enclosed letter, relative to the loss of his Crop, by the Hessian fly, I know nothing. If it should appear to you evident, that Kercheval has used his true endeavour to raise the means to discharge his Rent, and is deprived thereof by an Act of Providence, I am willing, however illy I can afford to do it, to make some reasonable abatement therefrom; of wch. you, from enquiry, will be the best judge.

It is demonstratively clear, that on this Estate (Mount Vernon) I have more working Negros by a full moiety, than can be employed to any advantage in the farming system, and I shall never turn Planter thereon.

To sell the overplus I cannot, because I am principled against this kind of traffic in the human species. To hire them out, is almost as bad, because they could not be disposed of in families to any advantage, and to disperse the families I have an aversion. What then is to be done? Something must or I shall be

[2]Ford prints this letter under date of August 17.

ruined; for all the money (in addition to what I raise by Crops, and rents) that have been *received* for Lands, sold within the last four years, to the amount of Fifty thousand dollars, has scarcely been able to keep me a float.

Under these circumstances, and thorough conviction that half the workers I keep on this Estate, would render me greater *nett* profit than I *now* derive from the whole, has made me resolve, if it can be accomplished, to settle Plantations on one of my other Lands. But where? with going to the Western Country I am unable, as yet to decide; as the *best* if not *all* the Lands I have on the East of the Alliganies, are under Leases, or some kind of incumbrance or another. But as you can give me correct information relative to this matter, I now *early* apply for it.

What then is the State of Kerchavals lot, and the other adjoining? are they under Leases? If not, is the Land good? and how many hands would it work to advantage? Have I any other good Land in Berkeley that could be obtained on reasonable terms? Is that small tract above the Warm Springs engaged for the ensuing year? How much cleared Land is there on it? and what kind of buildings? How many hands could be usefully employed thereon? Information on these points, and on others relative thereto, would be acceptable to me.

The drought has been so excessive on this Estate, that I have made no Oats, and if it continues a few days longer I shall make no Corn. I have cut little or no Grass, and my meadows, at this time, are as bear as the pavements, of consequence no second Crop can be expected. These things will compel me, I expect, to reduce the Mouths that feed on the Hay. I have two or three young Jacks (besides young Royal Gift) and several She Asses, that I would dispose of. Would Fauquier, or where else, be a good place to dispose of them?

I am glad to hear that your brother Lawrence is so much amended, as your letter indicates, whether it be from Sulpher

application, or other causes: but if Doctr. Ingraham under whose hands he was, was unable to effect a radical cure, I should not place much confidence in Voss's Spring, as the disorder must be deep rooted.

Your Aunt unites with me in best wishes for Mrs. Lewis, yourself and family and I am etc.[3] [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, August 23, 1799.

Dear Sir: Enclosed you have Mr. Ariss's draught on James Russell Esqr, returned. It was presented to the latter for acceptance, by Mr. Anderson, who received the following answer. to wit, that he had only £19 of Mr. Ariss's money in his hands, and could pay no more. This Sum Mr. Anderson refused to receive; and thus the matter ended with Mr. Russell.

Enclosed also you have the Press copy of a letter I wrote to you on the day of its date, and was on the point of sending it to the Post Office in Alexandria, when Mr. Anderson (just returned from that place) informing me that he saw you there, and that you proposed to be in Winchester as on Monday or Tuesday last, I put it under cover to Mr. Philip Bush to be delivered to you in that Town.

As it is probable some delay, or miscarriage may have attended the Letter, I send the Press copy of it; which you will return to me, whether the original gets to your hands or not; as it is a custom with me to keep copies of lettrs. on business.

[3] In the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress is a typed copy of this letter which has the following P. S.: "Since writing the foregoing Mr. Anderson informs me that he saw you in Alexandria yesterday, and that you told him you were to leave Winchester on Monday or Tuesday next. Being desirous that this letter should get to your hands as early as possible and especially while you were over the Ridge I have put it under cover to Mr. Bush of Winchester with a request that if you should not be there to send it by Post to Fauquier Court House."

Not knowing with certainty where your Brother Lawe. is, the enclosed letter for his Wife, from your Aunt, is committed to your care; and she begs it may get to hand safely, and as soon as convenient. as also one from Mrs. Law.

As there is a regular Post from Alexandria to Fauquier Court House, you have only to learn on what day and hour the Mail closes at the latter, for the former, to insure your letters getting into my hands in two or three days after they are written, as I never fail sending to the Post Office in Alexandria three times a week. Mine to you may lye longer in the Office at the Court House, if you are not in the habit of making frequent enquiries there, for letters.

Since my last we have had a sufficiency of fine Rain, but what effect it will have upon the poor, and miserably looking Corn, and before parched up Meadows, no one can yet tell; especially if the season should continue to be seasonable henceforward.

Your Aunt unites her best wishes to mine for Mrs. Lewis, yourself and family, and I am etc.[4]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1799.

Sir: Some of the Officers of Cavalry, who accepted their appointments, and were informed by you in the Public Gazettes, that their Pay would commence therewith, have applied to me to know where, and what manner they were to draw for it.

Not being able to supply them on these points, I take the liberty of troubling you with this Address, on the subject; that I may be enabled to answer any enquiries of the sort in future.

With great esteem etc.

[4]From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

To DOCTOR WILLIAM TAZEWELL

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1799.

Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 14th inst. expressing a wish to be intrusted with the medical care of the Marine Hospital, about to be established in Norfolk.

Whether it is determined to make such an establishment at present, or not, I am unable to say. But, in any event, if the establishment is in the *Marine* Department, it is out of the line in which I have engaged to serve the public, if called upon. And as I determined, when I quitted the Chair of Government, not to be the medium of applications for appointments, however deserving I might conceive the applicant to be, it would, therefore, be proper for you to make your wishes known to the President through some other Channel.

Should the establishment be connected with the Military Department, I would willingly forward your application, and any testimonials you might chuse to produce, to the war office, as I have been accustomed to do in similar cases, where they would remain to be considered and determined upon according to their merits. With esteem etc.[5]

*To JOHN FRANCIS

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 17th instant[6] in answer to mine of the 14th, has been received.

I have already given you the specific terms on which I propose to rent my houses in the Federal City, and from which I shall not depart an iota; because I fixed them as low as *any,*

[5] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

[6] Francis's letter is in the *Washington Papers.* He could not, he said, begin to pay rent until August, 1800.

with whom I conversed, thought I ought to ask, and much lower than *many* seem disposed to take.

It is true I did not give you the aggregate amount of the Rent, nor is it in my power (upon the principle I act) to do it at this time, with exact precision, because the cost of some parts of the Work is not, nor will not be known until the whole is completed; But as I am entirely disposed to give you all the data I possess, to enable you to form a judgment thereof, I send you enclosed the cost of all things which is conclusively fixed, and an ennumeration of them which are not; to which I shall add your information, that all the work, inside and out, is plain. Possessed of these facts you can err but little in ascertaining the *question* of Rent.

My reason for informing you of the epochs at which my houses, by Contract were to be completed, was not that I expected the Rents of them were to commence precisely on those days. They may not, although Mr. Blagden seems quite certain of being within the time stipulated, be in condition to receive tenant, or tenants, so soon. And as they are to be papered, some little time may be required for that, although occupancy is not to be retarded on that account as that operation can be performed as well after, as before the entry of the tenant; probably must be so, to prevent injury to the Paper, which must be on Plaster uncommonly well seasoned, to avoid its ranting [*sic*].

After giving this explanation, I must be permitted to add as there are two views of the case, that I conceive in naming the first of August, you . . .[7] extended the time for commencing the Rent unreasonably long; for certainly, it would be as hard for me, if the houses are ready, agreeably to Contract, to keep them empty five months to accomodate you, as it would be on you to pay two Rents, when the presumption is, that such houses will be in demand. Considering the matter therefore in both

[7] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

points of view, I am not indisposed to share the inconvenience with you; that is, be the interval what it may between the completion of the houses (as before mentioned) and the first of Aug. that it shall be borne between us; . . . suppose, that instead of the 1st of March, they are not ready until the end of it there will then be a vacuum of four months, in which case the Rent shd. commence the 1st. of June. again, if not ready until the 1st. of May, then to commence the middle of . . .

I am thus particular, that you may, in your next, decide *positively*. whether you will take the houses on the terms here mentioned, or not. If an affirmative answer is not, unconditionally given, I shall consider myself as under no other obligation to give you a preference, and will let the houses to any good tenant or tenants, who may apply, or dispose of them in any other manner. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

Cost of two Lots in the Federal City, extending from North Capital Street, to New Jersey Avenue in Square 634, together with the expence of the Buildings now erecting thereon, according to Contract; and an estimate of work not included in the said Contract, occasioned by alterations agreed on since viz.

	Dollars
For lot No. 16, bought from the Commissioners	$535.71
Ditto No. 7 bought from Mr. Danl. Carroll[8]	428.40
☞On the price of these lots considerable abatement was made, on condition of my building *two* brick houses *three* Stories high each.	
To Mr Blagden, Undertaker of the Buildings, according to written Contract. Estimate of Glazing, Painting, and Ironmongry *	11, 250
Glazing and Painting, agreeably to this estimate handed in by Mr. Blagden, but not agreed to, nor included in the Contract.	840

[8] Of "Duddington."

Ironmongry....Ditto....Do....Do.....	397.20
A Well of fine Water at the back doors of both houses; 30 odd feet deep, walled, and a Pump therein; the cost of which has not been exhibited, as it was procured to be done by Mr. Blagden, and paid for by him, out of the monies advanced him for general purposes	.....
A Pediment, and Parapet, in addition to the original cost of the Buildings. No specific sum agreed on for erecting them	.....
Carried over	$13.451.31

* Conceiving these charges were high, in the estimate, I took them upon myself. But whether I shall lose by so doing, remains to be decided. Mr. Blagden assured me that he could not obtain them on better terms than was specified.

	Dollars
Cost of two lots Brought over.....	$13.451.31
. . .[9] for the original design of . . . to add to the appearance of the House: also undefined in the cost	.....
Papering all the Rooms, except Cellars and garrets, . . . being, by Contract to have to . . . of Plaster than is merely sufficient for that purpose	.....
Taxes—if *any* at present, they are very trifling, and probably will remain so for a length of time. But to guard against this contingency, and to insure Seven and an half per Cent upon my expenditures, is the cause of this insert . . . against Fire. What this will amount to on Brick buildings, may be better ascertained in Philadelphia (where . . . Baltimore it will be probably be made) . . . were. It is inserted on the principle of the last article.	.....

There may be some other charges which are not recollected; and expences accrued, which will, on the principle here . . . be to be added; but none that will be costly, or unnecessary; as plainness and simplicity will run through the whole work. [N.Y.P.L.]

[9] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

*To DOCTOR WILLIAM BAYNHAM

Mount Vernon, August 27, 1799.

Sir: By my Servant . . .[10] with your letter of the 21st. instant.

I am persuaded . . . benefit which the nature of his case would admit he has, or will receive from your treatment of the affliction under which . . . and if it is incurable, . . . I have neglected nothing to restore his sight to him.

It was an *imposition* to ask you for money, (for I gave him more than sufficient to bear his expences down and up, and *impudent,* to say I had directed it. A liberty I never should have thought of

Your charge is extremely moderate, and the amount is herein enclosed by Sir, Your etc [N.Y.P.L.]

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, August 28, 1799.

Gentlemen: Monday's mail, brought me the enclosed letter of the 22d. instant from Colo. Pickering.

As it is more in your line than in mine, to give it the consideration which so interesting a subject merits; and as the field (hitherto so little outlined) is [illegible] to the adoption of any plan which wisdom, sound policy and [illegible] dictate, I take the liberty of transmitting it for your perusal; being persuaded that the thoughts of any intelligent and well disposed person on a point of such importance to the well being of a City which is designated to be the Seat of Empire; can not be illy received by you. With great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

[10] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

*To REVEREND MASON LOCKE WEEMS

Mount Vernon, August 29, 1799.

Revd Sir: I have been duly favored with your letter of the 20th. instant, accompanying "The Philanthropist"

For your politeness in sending the latter, I pray you to receive my best thanks. Much indeed is it to be wished that the sentiments contained in the Pamphlet, and the doctrine it endeavors to inculcate, were more prevalent. Happy would it be for *this country at least,* if they were so. But while the passions of Mankind are under so little restraint as they are among us. and while there are so many motives, and views, to bring them into action we may wish for, but will never see the accomplishment of it. With respect etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM ROBERTS

Mount Vernon, August 29, 1799.

Mr. Roberts: I have been much disappointed in not seeing you according to promise, and more so from your silence.

My Millers time as I informed you would be the case, expired the 12th. of this month; but rather than leave my Mill to the care of Negros, he has consented to remain until this time; and will do so until the day after tomorrow, when he has engaged a Waggon to remove him and his things, to the place to which he is going, many miles from hence.

I request to hear from you immediately, for it is better to know the worst of a thing, than to be held in suspence. I remain etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM HERBERT

Mount Vernon, August 30, 1799.

Dear Sir: Although I have more than a sufficient deposit in the Bank of Alexandria to take up my note; yet, as I know also

that there will be calls upon me that may not be conveniently answered without that aid; I have thought it advisable (as the 60 days has, or is about to expire) to renew it: and will thank you for taking the necessary steps to effect it accordingly. With very great esteem and etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To GOVERNOR JONATHAN TRUMBULL

Mount Vernon, August 30, 1799.

My Dear Sir: Your favor of the 10th instant came duly to hand. It gave me pleasure to find by the contents of it, that your sentiments respecting the comprehensive project of Colo. Trumbull, coincided with those I had expressed to him.

A very different state of Politics must obtain in this Country, and more unanimity prevail in our Public councils than is the case at present, 'ere such a measure could be undertaken with the least prospect of success. By unanimity *alone* the plan could be accomplished: while then a party, and a strong one too, is hanging upon the Wheels of Government, opposing measures calculated solely for Internal defence, and is endeavouring to defeat all the Laws which have been passed for this purpose, by rendering them obnoxious, to attempt anything beyond this, would be to encounter *certain* disappointment. And yet, if the Policy of this Country, or the necessity occasioned by the existing opposition to its measures, should suffer the French to Possess themselves of Louisiana and the Floridas, either by exchange or otherwise, I will venture to predict, without the gift of "*second sight*" that there will be "no peace in Israel." Or, in other words, that the restless, ambitious, and Intrieguing spirit of that People, will keep the United States in a continual state of Warfare with the numerous tribes of Indians that inhabit our Frontiers. For doing which their "Diplomatic skill" is well adapted.

With respect to the other subject of your letter, I must again express a strong, and ardent wish and desire that, no eye, no tongue, no thought, may be turned towards me for the purpose alluded to therein. For, besides the reasons which I urged against the measures in my last, and which, in my judgment, and by my feelings, are insurmountable, you, yourself, have furnished a cogent one.

You have conceded, what before was self-evident in my mind, namely, that not a single vote would, thereby, be drawn from the anti-federal Candidate. You add, however, that it might be a means of uniting the federal Votes. Here then, my dear Sir, let me ask, what satisfaction, what consolation, what safety, should I find in support, which depends upon caprice?

If *Men,* not *Principles,* can influence the choice, on the part of the Federalists, what but fluctuations are to be expected? The favorite today, may have the Curtain dropped on him tomorrow, while steadiness marks the conduct of the Anti's; and whoever is not on *their* side must expect to be loaded with all the calumny that malice can invent; in addition to which, I should be charged with inconsistency, concealed ambition, dotage, and a thousand more et ceteras.

It is too interesting not to be again repeated, that if principles, instead of men, are not the steady pursuit of the Federalists, their cause will soon be at an end. If *these* are pursued, they *will not divide* at the next Election of a President; If they do divide on so *important* a point, it would be dangerous to trust them on any other; and none except those who might be solicitous to fill the Chair of Government would do it. In a word, my dear Sir, I am too far advanced into the vale of life to bear such buffiting as I should meet with, in such an event. A mind that has been constantly on the stretch since the year 1753, with but short intervals, and little relaxation, requires rest, and

composure; and I believe that nothing short of a serious Invasion of our Country (in which case I conceive it to be the duty of every citizen to step forward in its defence) will ever draw me from my present retirement. But let me be in that, or in any other situation, I shall always remain your sincere friend and Affectionate &c.[11]

*To WILLIAM HAMBLY

Mount Vernon, September 1, 1799.

Sir: I have been favoured with your favour of the 13th. of April from Falmouth, accompanying what I persuade myself will (when opened) be found to be, a very fine Cheese, as all which I have had from you, have proved.

For this additional evidence of your kind, and polite attention to me, I pray you to accept my gratitude and thanks.

Unsuccessful in my first attempt to get a few (Virginia) Hams to you I am making another trial through the medium of Messrs. Thompson and Veitch, and hope they will meet a better fate than the last.

For your obliging wishes respecting me I feel very sensible. I reciprocate them cordially, and am Sir etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ROBERT TREAT PAINE

Mount Vernon, September 1, 1799.

Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 12th. of August, together with the Oration delivered by you in Boston on the 17th. of July.

[11] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Col. Arthur S. Dwight, of New York.

On August 30 Washington wrote a brief note to Rev. Zechariah Lewis, acknowledging the orations of Mr. [David] Daggett and Mr. Lewis. A photostat of this letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

I thank you for the very flattering sentiments which you have expressed in your letter respecting myself, and I consider your sending me your Oration as a mark of polite attention which demands my best acknowledgment; and I pray you will be assured, that I am never more gratified than when I see the effusions of genius from some of the rising generation, which promises to secure our National rank in the literary world, as I trust their firm, manly and patriotic conduct will ever maintain it with dignity in the Political. I am etc.[12] [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM HERBERT

Mount Vernon, September 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter with its enclosure, was not received until after candle light last night; owing, I presume, to my not having sent to the Post Office on friday: rarely sending oftener than every other day, for my letters and Papers.

I have put my name to the enclosed note, although it ought to have been at the Bank yesterday; to be returned, or destroyed, as circumstances require.

This business of borrowing and discount (as you will perceive) I am quite a novice in. What I meant by renewing my note, was no more than, instead of taking it up, by applying so much of my deposit in Bank to this purpose in payment thereof to let it remain, so as that, this sum might meet my command; whether I adopted proper means to effect this end, you are the best judge.

It is quite immaterial to me, whether the discount was made last week, or may be this week, or the next, provided all things are right with respect to the *old* note; which being for Sixty days I know ought to be paid at the end thereof, or renewed.

[12] From a photostat of the original through the courtesy of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.

With this explanation of my intentions, you will please to do, or cause to be done, what is proper on my part, that I may not be brought into any unpleasant predicament at the Bank.

It is far from my intention, or wish, to saddle you with the expence of stamps; and therefore pray to be charged with their cost, and to be told where, and in what manner I can be provided with others. With very great esteem, etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: I find, by looking over my files, that your favours of the 14th. and 24th. of August have never been acknowledged. I now do, the receipt of them.

I thank you, and through you, Governor Davie, for his "Instructions to be observed for the formations and movements of Cavalry" and would thank you to mention this to him, when you shall see him, which I presume must be soon.

I pray you to direct Mr Francis,[13] the Purveyor, to furnish me with the cost of the equipment of Washington Custis, as a Cavelry Officer. I have had a small Sum in the Bank of Pennsylvania *locked up,* being affraid to touch it, lest there might not be enough for that amount and I should find difficulty in remitting the Bale. I regret exceedingly the cause of your removal to Trenton and am, My dear Sir etc.

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, September 5, 1799.

Dear Sir: Not sending to Alexandria every day, letters sometimes lye longer in the Post Office than they otherwise would

[13] Tench Francis.

do. This is the reason why your favour of the 1st. instant has not been acknowledged sooner.

If Mr. Blagden would be at the trouble of chusing the Ironmongry *himself* and pay ready money for it (thereby providing it on the best terms) I had rather he should get it than I, because he would be a better judge of its quality. With the means for making such purchases, he shall always be furnished; and he may count upon the $1000 the 20th. instant.

I am glad to hear that your late Sales have been productive, and that the people of Baltimore are turning their attention towards the Federal City. At all times we shall be glad to see you and Mrs. Thornton here, and with great esteem etc.[14]

*To THOMAS PETER; IF ABSENT TO MRS. PETER

[September 7, 1799.]

Dear Sir: The Carriage is sent agreeably to Mrs. Peter's request; and we shall expect to see you by three o'clock.

Mrs. Washington has been exceedingly unwell for more than eight days. Yesterday she was so ill as to keep her bed all day, and to occasion my sending for Doctr. Craik the night before, at midnight. She is now better, and taking the Bark; but low, weak and fatigued, under his direction.

Her's has been a kind of Ague and fever, the latter never, entirely, intermitting until now. I sent for the Doctor to her on Sunday last, but she could not, until he came the second time, yesterday morning, be prevailed upon to take anything to arrest them. Our best regards attend you, and I am, etc.

Since writing and sealing this letter, Mrs. Washingtons fever has returned with uneasy and restless Symptoms.

Inform Mrs. Law thereof.[15]

[14] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[15] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, September 8, 1799.

Mr. Anderson: Mrs. Washington passed a good night, is clear of fever today, and is taking the Bark, which I hope will prevent a return of it.

I am much hurried and pressed, with one thing and another, but do what humanity requires for Roberts: who ought not to have engaged in the situation he is in without first informing me of it. Dr. Craik is not *now* here; nor *expected* if Mrs. Washington should not relapse; but the case may be stated to him against tomorrow afternoon, when I shall send up to the Post Office. If it be found that he is not *now* nor soon *will* be, in a condition to discharge the duties of a miller, some other *must,* undoubtedly, be got; as I cannot loose the Fall work of the mill. He may have medicine, or anything else from hence.

I did not send to the Post Office yesterday; of course no papers came. I was sorry to hear of your indisposition. I fear the charge with which you are entrusted, is too much for your health, and that to execute it properly will rather increase than diminish your complaint.

I shall therefore, so soon as company, sickness, and other circumstances will allow me time to digest my thoughts on this subject; express them to you in a more full and ample manner than I can do at present I am always etc.[16]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, September 8, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 22d Ulto. came duly to hand. The subject being of importance to the New City; and at no

[16] From the printed text in *George Washington and Mount Vernon,* Long Island Historical Society Memoirs (vol. 4).

time more necessary than at the commencement of the water improvements there. I sent it to the Commissioners of the Federal City; who were contemplating on regulations to avoid the evils which are but too common, and of late sorely felt; in almost the whole of our Seaport Towns of Magnitude, from narrow alleys, and filthy Docks. They have promised to give it all the consideration in their power.

Has any trial ever been given of the medicine, in the yellow fever, which was sent to me by a Physician in Germany, and forwarded to you? As the skill of our most eminent Medical men in this Country has been baffled in that fatal disorder, I think it merits a trial. With great esteem etc. [N. Y. P. L.]

*To GOVERNOR EDWARD RUTLEDGE

Mount Vernon, September 8, 1799.

My dear Sir: I have received, by the hand of Genl. W. Washington, the model of an improvement made on Gun Carriages which you have been so good as to present me; and I pray you will accept my sincere thanks for this token of your friendship, which will always be dear to me.

I see many advantages in this improvement on Gun Carriages, and I think every thing of this kind ought to be adopted by us, so far as they can be usefully applied; for it will be much easier to introduce valuable improvements in the commencement of our Military establishments, than after we shall have been long accustomed to certain habits and things to deviate from them.

In best wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and Mrs. Rutledge Mrs. Washington unites with My dear Sir Yr. etc.[17]

[17] From a photograph of the original presented by Harry MacNeill Bland, of New York.

To AUGUSTE DE GRASSE

Mount Vernon, September 9, 1799.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 20th of Augt. requesting an appointment in the Corps of Engineers about to be raised.

I have made it a point to forward all applications for military Offices, which have been made to me, to the Secretary of War, in whose office they will be deposited for the inspection and consideration of the President of the United States, and your letter has been transmitted to him accordingly. with due respect etc.[18]

*To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, September 10, 1799.

Mr. Anderson: In a hasty note which I wrote to you on Sunday last, I informed you, that as soon as time and circumstances would permit, I would be more full on a subject which I could then, but barely touch upon.

The latter of these has not, yet, put it so fully in my power as I could wish to fulfil this promise. I shall, however, endeavour to explain my meaning without further [illegible].

I have, for more than two years, been a witness to your zeal, industry and exertions in the discharge of your multifarious duties; and I always have, and still do believe, that they have been rendered with the strictest sobriety and integrity. But I must have been blind, if I had not discovered also, that the *whole,* taken together, more on account of the diversity, and

[18] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

On September 9 Washington forwarded this letter to the Secretary of War in a brief note, acknowledging, at the same time, a letter from Governor Rutledge and one for Brig. Gen. William Washington, which the Secretary had forwarded. The draft of this letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

complexity of them, than for their aggregate magnitude, was too much for you; and that by your exertions to execute the various parts, to your own satisfaction, you might bring on, what you say has already happened, ill-health.

The intimation of this by you, with the doubt accompanying it, of being unable to go through with the business; added to the earnest desire I have long had to simplify my concerns by dividing, and letting part of them out, thereby relieving myself from much trouble; and, though less profitable perhaps, place my income on more stable ground, has suggested more strongly than ever the idea of connecting my Mill and Distillery into one concern, and renting them on reasonable terms; and as you profess to understand the Management of both, to offer them to you on a Rent for any number of years not exceeding seven, and on such terms as you, yourself, under the estimates you have given me of their annual value, shall think just, between man and man. For at the sametime that I should expect a reasonable compensation for the use of the property it would be equally my wish that you should find your account in the profit, arising therefrom. Live, and let live, is, in my opinion, a maxim founded in true policy; and is one I am disposed to pursue.

If the Mill and Distillery was let in this manner, there would be no difficulty in Renting the Fishery at the Ferry, (depending on that at the Mansion house to supply my Negroes) and having a project in contemplation for the disposal of one of my Farms, which (not being sufficiently mature) is ineligable to mention at this time, the others would be no more than amusement *for me,* to superintend, if I should not be drawn again into public life; and if I was you would be on the spot to resume your old occupation, if you chose to return to it, while

you son John, under your advice and directions could carry on the concerns of the Distillery and Mill for your own benefit. For I can assure you with frankness, that it is not with a view to introduce a new Manager that I have made these proposals. I have not the smallest inclination to change. But have assigned, with candour, the motives which have led to it; namely, that the business in its present shape is too complicated, and diversified to be managed to advantage; and because I want to bring my income to something more specific, as well as to avoid the expenditures which are heaped upon me in a ratio I am unable to support, when it is the first wish of my heart to be (as much as possible in my situation) exempt from cares. In a word, I wish to bring the Concerns, which would be under my *immediate* management, into some narrow compass as to make the superintendence of them a mere matter of amusement.

I might even in this case, require your advice now and then, with respect to the ordering of Meadows, management of grounds, &ca., for which I should be well disposed to make you an allowance.

The house you live in, unless some more eligable plan could be devised, would still serve you, and your family: for I have said before, I should not require it for any other superintendant.

As the operations of both Mill and Distillery might require a little money to lay in Grain, until that grain would be in a condition to raise cash for the Flour and Whiskey it would produce, I should be disposed (if the means were in my power) to advance you a little, to begin with. But as my means depend upon payment from others, it would be folly in me to promise this, absolutely, as, from experience I have found, that there is no reliance on the most solemn assurances that are given of money. I wish you better health, and remain your friend &ca.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, September 11, 1799.

Dear Sir: The 20th. of this month, when Mr Blagden would require an advance of a thousand dollars, being near at hand, and Mr. Peter affording a good and safe opportunity to remit it, I enclose for this purpose, a check on the Bank of Alexandria, to that amount.

Mr. Peter informs me that his brother ——— has Ironmongry of a good quality, which he wants to dispose of, and would sell cheap. I pray you therefore to inform Mr. Blagden of this circumstance, request him to examine it, and if of the kind and quality he requires and to be had on good terms, to supply himself therefrom, and at the foot of the Invoice to draw upon me for the amount; which shall be immediately paid. With great esteem etc.[19]

*To BENJAMIN DULANY

Mount Vernon, September 12, 1799.

Sir: If Mrs. French or yourself, have come to any determination respecting the proposal I made in a letter addressed to you on the 15th of July last, it would be obliging to inform me of the result; as the season is fully advanced when my arrangements for the ensuing year must be made.

Knowing that Mrs. French had rented her Farm, I did not [illegible] expect that it would have suited her to take the Negros, at any rate unless believing, as no doubt the case would be, that obtaining them in the aggregate, on the terms they were offered, she might derive considerable profit by again hiring

[19] From a photostat of the original through the courtesy of Stephen B. Luce, of Boston, Mass.

them out individually; whilst a number of promising boys and girls would soon be in a situation to encrease her income [illegible] it respectful, and proper however, to couple her name with yours, when the proposal (alluded to before) was made.

I certainly conceived, that as they would, ultimately, descend to you, or yours, that it would be your interest to take them on the terms they were offered; as well, knowing that you had very valuable lands to settle them on, in the vicinity of the Federal City (on both sides the River) where every thing raised would in a little time commd. a ready market, as for the reason just given, namely, individual hiring; which it would always be in your power to do, as likely Negros of the description I gave you, are always in request. But the object of this letter being to learn your decision, I shall only add that I am etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, September 14, 1799.

Dear Sir: I feel much obliged, and accordingly thank you, for your kind intention of ordering me two months pay; and I shall not suffer false modesty to assert, that my finances stand in no need of it; because it is not the time, nor the attention only, which the Public duties I am engaged in require; but their bringing upon me Applicants, recommenders of applicants, and seekers of information, with their servants and horses (none of whom perhaps are of my acquaintance) to aid in the consumption of my forage, and what, to me is more valuable, My time, that I mostly regard; for a man in the Country, nine miles from any house of Entertainment is differently situated from one in a City, where none of these inconveniences are felt.

Yet, even under these circumstances, which may be little known to those who wd. appreciate them, and would be totally disregarded by such as are always on the look out for something to cavil at, I am resolved to draw nothing from the Public but re-embursement of *actual* expenditures; unless, by being called into the Field, I shall be entitled to full pay, and the Emoluments of Office.

Without this it *would* be said by the latter description of People, that I was enjoying retirement on very easy and lucrative terms; whilst the former might remark, that I had forgot the Conditions on which I accepted my Commission; opposed to these, the loss of time, and incidental expences, are not to be compared.

I thought this explanation of my motives, for declining the acceptance of your offer, was due to your attention, and kind intention, in behalf of Dear Sir Your etc.

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, September 15, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 3d instant, with the papers accompanying it, did not get to my hands till the 11th. At the same time I received a long letter from Genl. Hamilton, with voluminous references, to which he requested my immediate attention, and the communication of my sentiments thereon. These circumstances will account for your not having received an answer before this time.

The Rules which have been adopted by the President of the U. S. relative to Rank in the Army, point out the mode which must determine the relative Rank of those Officers who have heretofore been in service. The documents in the War Office, and the information obtained from the parties, would enable

you to fix the Rank of those Officers, at least as well as I can do it. But to manifest my readiness to comply, so far as is in my power, with any request from your department, I have, in the enclosed list,[20] noted numerically the names of the Lieutenant Colonels and Majors, who have been in service, as they should rank, agreeably to the documents from the War Office, which you forwarded to me, annexed to their names, and in conformity with the Regulations established by the President relative to Rank.[21]

By these Rules resignation precludes all *claim* to Rank and places the party on a footing with those officers, who have never before been in Service; but where a resignation took place from any cause not affecting the Character of the Officer (as it is presumed is the case with all who are now appointed under this circumstance) it does not, in my opinion, deprive the party of that consideration wh. his having been in service would give, provided he stands on equal ground, in other respects, with those who have never served.

As the Relative Rank of Officers who have not been in service, is to be determined by the Commander in Chief, I shall make the arrangement in the best manner I can, with respect to the Officers in your list who are of this description. But in order to do this with propriety and satisfaction a personal knowledge of the several Officers, or full information of their respective qualifications, talents and merits is necessary. The former I do not possess. The latter I have, respecting most of those who have not been in service, so far as could be ascertained from the documents laid before the Genl. Officers in November last from the War Office. But to proceed on this ground alone, and without any document relatively to the

[20] A copy is in the *Hamilton Papers* under date of Sept. 15, 1799.
[21] In the *Washington Papers* under date of July 2, 1799.

Characters of the Officers from Connecticut, North and South Carolina and Georgia (who, you will recollect, were selected without any agency of mine) and fix the Rank definitively, would be very repugnant to my ideas of propriety and justice. In a word, it wd. be little better than to decide their relative Rank by lot. I have tried and tried again to make an arrangement of the Majors who have been in service, and I enclose a list of the Result; but it is so unsatisfactory to myself, that I request no weight may be given to it farther than it accords with better information and circumstances.

In your letter you have requested, that the Relative Rank of the Field officers of the Cavalry, as well as of the 12 Regts of Infantry, should be fixed; but you have not furnished the names of those Officers; and there is one Major wanting, according to your list, to complete the No. for the 12 Regts of Infantry.

I feel much obliged by your intention of remitting me two months pay; but, excepting in cases which may involve me in pecuniary expenses, I must beg leave, on the principle I set out with, to decline the Acceptance of it. The letters written to you by the Lieuts. Colonels and Majors, in answer to your queries, are herewith returned. With due consideration etc.[22]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, September 15, 1799.

Dear Sir: Mrs. Washington's indisposition (being confined eight or ten days), and other circumstances, would not allow me to give your letter of the 9th instant, and the Reports, Journals &c. &c. which accompanied it, an earlier consideration. Having done this, however, with as much thought as I have been able to bestow, under the circumstances mentioned, I see

[22] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

no cause (with the limited force which has been enumerated, and which, I presume, is all that can be calculated upon) to differ from you in the disposition of it. Although, at the same time, I shall make some observations thereupon for consideration.

It may be remembered, that, at the time the Secretary of War laid before the General Officers in Philadelphia, the letters of General Wilkinson respecting the propriety (in his Judgment) of placing a considerable force at the Natches, I gave it my decided disapprobation. Inasmuch as it would excite, in the Spaniards, distrust and jealousy of our pacific disposition; would cause an augmentation of force on their part; and so on with both, if our Government would go into the measure, until the *thing* which was *intended* to be *avoided* would, [more than probable,] be produced, i. e. hostility. Whereas, by keeping that force in the upper Country, besides its looking to *all* points, and exciting no alarm in [*any,*] might, if occasion should require it, either for defence or Offence, descend the stream like lightening, with all its munitions and equipments; which could be accumulated with ease, and without noise, at the upper Posts, and make the surprise [more compleat].

Although I have said (in effect) that the Corps de reserve, or Army of Observation, should take post at the place you have mentioned, namely, in the vicinity of the Rapids of the Ohio (Louisville); yet I can see but two reasons which entitle it to be preferred to the *present Post* above, i. e. Fort Washington,[23] in a geographical point of view: and these are, that there is no water above the former, that can float large Vessels at all seasons, And that, by being so much lower down, the passage of the Ohio would be facilitated if an Expedition should descend the Mississippi. In other respects the latter, in my opinion, has the advantage. 1st. Because it is a Post *already* established, and would

[23] At Cincinnati, Ohio.

incur no additional expense. 2dly. Because it is *more* contiguous to Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michilimacanac, and all the Indians on the Lakes, from whom, in that quarter, we have most danger to apprehend. 3dly. Because communications with it (for the most part by water) are already established. And 4thly, In case of Insurrections [above or below], it is equally as well, if not better situated.

Were it not that the Mouth of the Wabash empties itself into the Ohio so low down, and yet above its confluence with Cumberland and Tennessee, I should be inclined to give a position thereabouts the preference of either the Rapids or Fort Washington; because it would command a great water Inlet towards the Lakes.

But, whether the position for the Corps de reserve be chosen at the Rapids of the Ohio, above, or below, it had better, I conceive, be on the North side of the Ohio than within the State of Kentucky. Thereby impeding more the intercourse between the Army and the Citizens, and guarding against the evils which result from [that] mixture, and too much familiarity.

I am so far from agreeing with General Wilkinson that Fort Wayne ought to be abolished, that, if I mistake not the place (central between the heads of the Miamis of Lake Erie and the Ohio; the St. Joseph and the Wabash;) affording good water transportation, with small portages, in every direction, I should pronounce it (were it not for the expence of subsisting Troops there) the most eligible position for the Army of observation of any in that Country. It would be an effectual security against all the Indians who could annoy us in that Region; it would cover our Barrier Posts, on the line between the British and us; and Troops from thence might descend rapidly into the Mississippi [by the Wabash].

General Wilkinson, in speaking of Posts along our Southern Frontier, is general; and you only notice Fort Stoddart. But, on an inspection of the maps, a place presents itself, [to my view], as very eligible to occupy; provided the Creek Indians would consent to it. I mean the Apalachicoli, at its confluence with Flint River, [where the line of demarkation strikes it].

But, in my opinion, if we had, or could obtain an Engineer of *real* skill, and attached to the true policy and interest of the United States, he ought to devote his whole time to the investigation of our interior Country; and mark, and erect its proper defences; for these, hitherto, have been more the work of chance and local consideration, than National design.

If the harbour of Presque Isle is good, I should think a small Garrison ought to be retained there. It certainly is the *best* on the [American] side of Lake [Erie]; and one there is important; but I see very little use of a Sergeant and 8 privates at Fort Knox. It is either unnecessary, or too small; and Sergeants at a distance rarely conduct well, when they have not the eye of an Officer [to inspect their conduct.]

There are several references in General Wilkinson's Report which were not sent. No. 1 appears to have been essential. They are all returned. By his statement of the mutilated condition of the Troops, and present disposition of them, there must have been most horrible mismanagement somewhere. A corrective is, indeed, highly necessary. The practice of furloughing Officers, and then renewing the furloughs from time to time, is extremely injurious to the Service, [and ought to be discontinued on ordinary occasions]. And that of frittering the [Army] into small Garrisons, is, if possible, worse. [It] will never be respectable while these evils exist; and until it can be more concentrated, and the Garrisons frequently relieved by detachments from [the main body], discipline will always be lax, and impositions on the public will prevail.

If the British are resolved to keep up armed Vessels on the lakes, I presume it will be expedient for us to do the same; but in time of peace a better way, in my opinion, is, for neither to have any. In case of a rupture, or the appearance of one, with that nation, there can be no doubt of our arming on those waters much [more expeditiously] than they would be able to do.

I have now gone over the material points in your letter and General Wilkinson's Report; but, as I mentioned before, it has been done under circumstances unfavorable to minute investigation or mature deliberation, and my sentiments, where differing from you, given more for consideration than decision. Should any thing of importance on this subject, not noticed here, occur to me, I shall not fail to communicate it to you; for the measures now taken with respect to guarding our Frontiers and interior Country ought to be such as will be permanent and respectable. With very great regard, I am, &c.[24]

*To ROGER WEST

Mount Vernon, September 19, 1799.

Sir: Sometime ago the Servant who waits upon me, Christopher (calling himself Christopher Sheels) asked my permission to marry a Mulatto girl belonging to you. As he had behaved as well as servants usually do, I told him I had no objection to the union, provided your consent (which was necessary) could be obtained.

This I presume happened because I understand they are married. I was in hopes that this connexion (as I heard the Girl well spoken of) would have been some brake upon his future conduct; but the reverse is to be apprehended from the enclosed

[24] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. The words in brackets in the draft (also by Lear, in the *Washington Papers*) are in the writing of Washington.

note, which was found in my yard; dropped it is supposed, by him. Whether the girl can write, or not; and whose writing it is, are equally unknown to me; but it undoubtedly came from her to the Husband, from the purport of it.

He is unacquainted with . . .[25] my possession, as I think his wife ought to be, until proper measures can be taken . . . matters upon them; which, from the contents of the letter, your vicinity to Alexandria . . . friends in that place, you will be enabled, much better than I to do; I mean, particularly, the discovery of the Vessel, they contemplate to escape in.

I have made this communication, my good Sir, on the supposition that you, would be equally desirous to arrest their project; but if, as some say, she is free; and as others, that you are about to make her so, our cases differ; except in the example. But in either case I would thank you for any information you can give me respecting this matter, by a line left at . . . goes through the medium of Doctr. Craik, to avoid the suspicion that might arise by sending a messenger with it to your house. The Doctr. is made acquainted with the contents; but the fewer that are so, . . . nts, in the business of detection, the better.

I have heard with pleasure, that you had received much benefit in your health, from your journey to the Springs; and I sincerely wish you the perfect restoration of it, etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To LAWRENCE LEWIS

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1799.

Dear Sir: From the moment Mrs. Washington and myself adopted the two youngest children of Mr. Custis, it became my intention (if they survive me, and conduct themselves to my

[25] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

satisfaction) to consider them in my Will, when I was about to make a distribution of my property. This determination has undergone no diminution, but is strengthened by the connexion which one of them has formed with my family. The expense at which I live, and the unproductiveness of my Estate together, will admit of no diminution of income, while I remain in my present situation; on the contrary were it not for occasional supplies of money in payment for Lands sold within the last four or five years, to the amount of upwards of Fifty thousand dollars; I should not be able to support the former without involving myself in debt and difficulties. But as it has been understood from expressions occasionally dropped (from Nelly Custis, now) your Wife, that it is the wish of you both to settle in this neighbourhood (contiguous to her friends) and as it would be inexpedient, as well as expensive for you, to make a purchase of land when a measure which is in contemplation would place you on more eligable ground, I shall inform you, that in the Will which I have by me, and have no disposition to alter, that part of my Mt. Vernon tract which lies North and West of the public road leading from the Gum Spring and Colchester (from a certain point which I have marked) containing about two thousand acres of Land, with the Dogue run Farm, Mill, Distillery, Gray's heights, &ca. is bequeathed to you and her jointly, if you incline to build on it; and few better sites for a house than Gray's hill, and that range, are to be found in this Country, or elsewhere.

You may also have what is properly Dogue run Farm, the Mill, and Distillery, on a just and equitable Rent; as also the hands belonging thereto on a reasonable hire, either next year, or the year following; it being necessary, in my opinion, that a young man should have objects of employment. Idleness is disreputable under any circumstances; productive of no good,

even when unaccompanied with vicious habits; and you might commence building as soon as you please; during the progress of which Mount Vernon might be made your home.

You may conceive, that building before you have an absolute title to the land, is hazardous. To obviate this I shall only remark that it is not likely that any occurrence will happen or any change take place that would alter my intention (if the conduct of yourself and wife is such as to merit a continuance of it) but, be this as it may, that you may proceed on sure ground with the buildings, I will agree, and this letter shall be an evidence of it, that if, thereafter, I should find cause to make any other disposition of the property here mentioned, I will pay the actual cost of such buildings to you, or yours.

Although I have not the most distant idea that any event will happen that could effect a change in my present determination, nor any suspicion that you, or Nelly would conduct yourselves in such a manner as to incur my serious displeasure; yet, at the same time that I am inclined to do justice to others, it behoves me to take care of myself, by keeping the staff in my own hands. That you may have a more perfect idea of the Landed property I have bequeated to you and Nelly in my Will I transmit a plan of it, every part of which is correctly laid down and accurately measured. Shewing the number of Fields, Lots, Meadows, waste land, &ca; with the contents, and relative situation of each. All of which, except the Mill swamp, (wch. has never been considered a part of Dogue run Farm, and is retained merely for the purpose of putting it into a better state of improvement,) you may have on the terms before mentioned. With every kind wish for you and Nelly, in which your Aunt who has been and is very much indisposed unites, I remain your Affectionate Uncle.

*To MARY WHITE MORRIS[26]

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1799.

Our dear Madam: We never learnt with certainty, until we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. White (since his return from Frederick) that you were at Winchester.

We hope it is unnecessary to repeat in this place, how happy we should be to see you and Miss Morris under our roof, and for as long a stay as you shall find convenient, before you return to Philadelphia; for be assured we ever have, and still do retain, the most Affectionate regard for you Mr Morris and the family.

With the highest esteem and regard, and best wishes for the health and happiness of the family you are in we are Dear Madam Your etc.[27]

*To THOMAS LAW

Mount Vernon, September 21, 1799.

Dear Sir: In acknowledging the receipt of your note, which came to hand two days since, without date, I shall only observe, that whenever it suits the convenience of yourself and Mrs. Law to visit Mount Vernon, we shall be happy in seeing you.

I had a desire (not a strong one) to possess the corner lot belonging to Mr. Carroll on New Jersey Avenue, merely on account of its local situation; but have abandoned the idea. Disappointed in every expectation of receiving money, though most solemnly assured it, I am obliged to have recourse to borrowing from the Bank of Alexandria, much against my inclination to carry on my buildings in the City. It follows, that to

[26] Mrs. Robert Morris.

[27] From a photograph of the original kindly presented by Frederick E. Atwood, of Boston, Mass. This letter is signed also by Martha Washington.

sell the houses I have on hand there, will comport more with my finances than to purchase and build on other lots. If then you should hear of purchasers, this circumstance should be mentioned. Mrs. Washington is far from well but unites in love with yr. etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To BURGES BALL

Mount Vernon, September 22, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th. instt. has been received, informing me of the death of my brother.[28]

The death of near relations always produces awful and affecting emotions, under whatsoever circumstances it may happen. That of my brother's has been so long expected, and his latter days so uncomfortable to himself, must have prepared all around him for the stroke; though painful in the effect.

I was the *first,* and am now the *last,* of my fathers Children by the second marriage who remain. when I shall be called upon to follow them, is known only to the giver of life. When the summons comes I shall endeavour to obey it with a good grace.

Mrs. Washington has been, and still is, very much indisposed, but unites with me in best wishes for you, Mrs. Ball and family. With great esteem, &c.[29]

*To MAJOR PRESLEY PETER THORNTON

Mount Vernon, September 22, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th Instant came to my hands by the last Post. I learnt with regret, the cause of General Pinckney's visit to Rhode Island. From the account given of

[28] Charles Washington.
[29] From the Ball Deposit in the Library of Congress.

his Lady's health by Brigr. Genl. Washington, it is to be feared her case is dangerous.

I am sorry to hear that the Recruiting Service, in the District to which you were assigned, progresses so slowly. It was conjectured before hand that you would have many difficulties to encounter therein. The result therefore, is not a matter of surprise.

Until you are requested to join the General Officer to whose person you are attached, or directed by him to remain Stationary for the purpose of receiving, and executing his orders, I conceive it will be incumbent on you to obey the orders of your Colonel.

Mr. Lear left this a few days ago to try the Air of the Mountains. Mrs. Washington has been much indisposed, but joins in love [illegible] with Dr. Sir etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To SAMUEL WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, September 22, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter, announcing the death of my Brother, came to hand last night. One from Colo. Ball, informing me of that event, arrived the evening before.

I very sincerely condole with your mother and the family on this occasion. But as death, in this case, regular in its approaches; and evident, long before it happened; she, and all of you, must have been prepared for the stroke. Of course, though painful, it must have fallen much lighter on that account.

By this event, you have become the Guardian of your mother; and as it were, the father, of your fathers family; and by care, industry and sobriety will merit the appellation of one.

Your Aunt has been, and still is, much indisposed, but unites in best wishes for yr. mother, self, and family with your sincere frd. and Affectionate uncle. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, September 22, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your letter of the 15th. instt. from New Post, has been received.

I am sorry to be disappointed of the visit you promised us; and regret the cause of it. In the Spring, and at all times, when your health will permit, and it suits your convenience, we shall be happy in seeing you and Mrs. Washington under our roof.

Are there any *Crops* of Wheat for Sale in your Neighbourhood? I want to keep my Mill employed in Manufacturing this Grain, and the Millers who surround me, more alert than I am, pick up all the Wheat in these parts before I am scarcely thinking of purchasing, although I am willing, and do give, as good prices as they; and (in cases of credit) pay, I believe, with more punctuallity. I would thank you for making this enquiry, and for informg. me of the result.

Mrs. Washington has been, and still is, very unwell; but unites her complimts. to mine. I am etc.

P. S. I received, last night, an Acct. of the death of my Brother in Berkeley.[30]

*To GEORGE BALL

Mount Vernon, September 25, 1799.

Sir: From the tenor of your letter of the 6th. of April, in answer to mine of the 17th March, I could not have conceived

[30] From a facsimile in a sales catalogue, 1925.

On September 22 Washington wrote to Tench Francis, purveyor of public supplies, enquiring about "some articles for the equipment of Mr. Custis as a Cornet of Horse." A press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

that I should have been without the money due for the Land I agreed to let you have, at, or near the first of October. And why you should have supposed I did not want money, when you had been told that it was my only inducement for selling the Land, is to me, inconceivable.

I now, in explicit terms beg you to be persuaded of three things. 1st. That nothing but the want of it, induced me to part with the land; because I knew full well from long experience, that the rise in the price of land was more than an equivalent thereof and common interest of money; 2dly. that my present call for that article is *great* and *urgent;* and 3dly. that I must no longer be trifled with in the payment of what is due from you to me; for this will compel me to resort to means which cannot fail to be disagreeable to us both. I therefore request that you would inform me in explicit terms, at what time I may expect (without fail) what is due to me by your engagement, that I may arrange matters accordingly. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To JOHN AVERY

Mount Vernon, September 25, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 2d instt. came duly to hand; but previous thereto, I had written to Mr. Jno. Francis of Philadelphia (who *report* had engaged the houses to I was building in the Federal City) to know in explicit terms whether he meant to take them, or not, on the conditions I offered them, namely, Seven and an half per cent on the whole cost; to which, taxes, if any and Insurance against fire, were to be added. On lower terms, no person in the Fedl. City, or elsewhere that I could hear of, would Let; and but few who would sell on these, as it was but little more than legal and common interest of money, when it is well known that the wear and tare of houses required much more.

I have waited until now, to receive Mr. Francis's answer, without hearing from him; which has been the cause of my not replying to your letter sooner. If his answer is detained much longer, I shall feel myself under no obligation to prefer him, because he was the first applicant, for them.

Although my house, or houses (for they may be one or two as occasion requires) are, I believe, upon a larger scale than any in the vicinity of the Capital, yet they fall far short of your wishes. The largest room, and that occasionally made so, is not more than 40 [*sic*] feet in length. The houses are three flush stories of Brick, besides Garret rooms: and in the judgment of those better acquainted in these matters than I am, capable of accomodating between twenty and thirty boarders. The buildings are not costly, but elegantly plain. and the whole cost, at a pretty near guess, may be between fifteen and sixteen thousand dollars. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To LAWRENCE LEWIS

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1799.

Dear Sir: The enclosed letter was written agreeably to the date, and sent up to the Post Office in Alexandria; but owing to an accident, it missed the Western Mail and was returned to me again.

Since which Mr Anderson (in Partnership with his son John) has discovered an inclination to Rent my Distillery and Mills and for reason which I shall disclose to you, but do not wish them to be made public, I am disposed to let them become the tenants; provided they will give a reasonable Rent, and matters in other respects, can be adjusted.

The reasons are, that although Mr. Anderson is (in my opinion) an honest, sober and industrious man; understands the

management of the Plough, the Harrow &ca; and how to make Meadows; yet, he is not a man of arrangement, he wants system and foresight in conducting the business to advantage; is no œconomist in providing things, and takes but little care of them when provided: When to these defects in his character, are added his acting too much from the impulse of the moment (which occasions too much doing, and undoing) and his high wages and emolument I have no hesitation in declaring that it is my wish to place my Estate in this County on a New establishment; thereby bringing It into so narrow a compass, as not only to supercede the necessity of a Manager, but to make the management of what I retain in my own hands, an agreeable and healthy amusement, to look after myself; if I should not be again called into the Public service of the Ctry.

As the old man is extremely obliging and zealous in my service; I am unwilling, by any act of mine, to hurt his feelings or (by discarding of him) to lessen his respectability in the eyes of the public. but if it should appear to be his own act (by engaging in this business) both our ends will be answered. I should be lessened, so much of my general concerns; and if you take the Dogue run farm, (by odds the best and most productive I possess) I can, if I remain quiet at home, with great ease attend to the other three, and the Mansion house and thereby ease myself of the expence of a manager.

You will perceive by my letter of the 20th, herewith enclosed, that the lands therein mentioned, are given for the express purpose of accomodating you in a building seat; in which case I did not, nor do I now, see how you could do without the Farm which is part of the premises and the hands thereon; and were it not for the reasons, which apply to Mr Anderson, the Mill and Distillery ought to accompany it, as part of the same concern. And as I shall require nothing either for the one or the

other that is not perfectly reasonable and just, it is not likely that we shall differ on the quantum of Rent, and hire which will be fixed on the property, by way of annuity.

The Mules and Horses on the Farm; The Cattle (except the young Bulls I had from Mr Lloyd); The Sheep (except the Lambs which had been carried thither from *all* the Farms); and Hogs, you may have on an equitable valuation: which would ease you of the trouble of providing them elsewhere, less valuable perhaps and not reconciled to the place.

I shall not (as by a letter from Nelly you may be expected here shortly) go more into detail at this time. But if this yr. intention should be impeded by any accident, or unforeseen event, I shall expect to hear from you by Post. Indeed, if a letter could reach this sooner than yourselves it would be agreeable, and expedient: for when Mr. Anderson (after I had written my letter of the 20th.) hinted his desire of Renting the Mill and Distillery, he was informed, that I had made an offer of them to you; and that, until I received your answer I could say nothing definitely to him, on the Subject, and so the matter remains.

Mrs. Washington has not recovered her health; On the contrary is, at this time weak, low, and much indisposed. Mr. and Mrs. Peter (now here) and their Children, are well; as he says Mr. and Mrs. Law also are. Doctr. Stuart who went from this yesterday, says Mrs. Stuart was not very well, but nothing extray. the matter. We all unite in best wishes for you; Nelly, and Mr. Carter's family; and I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS PARKER

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1799.

Sir: In a letter from General Hamilton, enclosing the one I now forwd. to you, I am requested to change, or modulate his

directions to you, in any manner which to me shall appear most conducive to the Public Service.

His directions comport with my ideas; but I shall be more pointed in drawing your attention to the site at, or as near as one can possibly be obtained, to the Arsenal which is established at the confluence of the Potomack and Shanandoah, for your Encampment.

I view the work at that place as important, embracing, as a place of Arms, more objects than any other in the United States; of course, possessing at the sametime all the other requisite advantages which an abounding Country, good situation, and strength, can furnish, that it ought to be the place at which the 8th, 9th. and 10th. Regiments should be assembled that by combining the two objects, they may mutually assist, and benefit each other.

You will readily perceive, however, that to obtain this, or any other site for your Winter Cantonment, either by purchase (which is most desirable) or hire, that Address is necessary to prevent an imposing high price. It might be well therefore, to hold several places up to view; such even as from their remoteness from the *true* point will not answer, may be talked of, and examined.

Having given a decided preference (for the reasons mentioned) to the vicinity of the Arsenal, for your Hutting, it follows, if you cannot obtain Land there, that as near thereto as possible, is next to be chosen whether above, or below the Shanondoah; (on the Virginia side of the Potomack). Not a moment however, that can be avoided, is to be lost in providing for the Winter quarters of the Troops who ought to have been in their Huts 'ere this.

Upon reflection, I am induced to believe that the United States are already possessed of Land adequate to the occasion,

at, or near Harpers Ferry; if so, all difficulty is done away. Was my Secretary, Mr. Lear at home, I could ascertain this matter with certainty; but he is now in Berkeley. The Land of Keep Trieste Furnace, and others belonging to General Lee, are adjoining. The first is advertised for Sale; and the other I am persuaded might be had. General Lee is, I am informed, in these parts [mutilated]; if I should [mutilated] I will sound him myself on the purchase of his Land; but must occasion no relaxation in your exertions to have all matters fixed, as the season will admit of no delay.

In building the Huts, observe the strictest regularity. In a word, with the exactness of a well ordered Incampment. Such was the conduct, and practice of the American Army to that business during the Revolution, in the Winter Cantoments of it. With esteem I am etc.

*To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, September 29, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 23d. instant was received the 27th; and this day will proceed in the Mail to Winchester, the nearest Post Town to Colo. Parker's residence, if he should be at his own house, the letter enclosed for him.

There being no person in my view more eligable than Colo. Parker to carry your Instructions into effect, unless Colo Carrington had been in office as Quarter Master General, I had no hesitation in forwarding your letter to him; with such sentimts. as occurred to me on the subject; which differed in no essential point, from those you had given.

I confined him more pointedly than you had done, to the site near Harpers ferry for his Winter Cantonment. because very cogent reasons, in my opinion, required it; for besides possessing

all the advantages enumerated in your letter to him (so far as my recollection of the spot, and information goes); being in a fertile and most abounding Country; and one of the strongest positions by nature, perhaps in America; It appeared to me, that the Encampment, and Arsenal which is established at that place, might mutually assist, and benefit each other.

If the States are wise enough to keep united, I have no doubt of this Arsenals being their principal place of Arms, and best foundary; as it is in the midst of Furnaces and Forces of the best Iron; Can receive at, and transport from it, by Inland Navigation, all its wants, and manufacture, in every direction: and is, indubitably, supposing the advantage of water transportation out of the question altogether, the great high way to the Country on the River Ohio.

For the reasons I have assigned, I did not hesitate a moment in giving the vicinity of Harpers ferry (at the confluence of the Rivers Potomac and Shenandoah) a decided preference; but if I am not mistaken, another strong inducement is afforded, namely, that there is a sufficiency of Land, purchased for the purpose of the Arsenal, to accomodate both objects. Of this I have informed Colo. Parker; but as Mr. Lear is from home (who was the Agent for the War Department in the purchase) I could not inform him with certainty. If the fact however, should be as I suspect, it will prove a most fortunate circumstance, as well in the article of expence, as in the time that will be gained in completing the Huts. If it should be otherwise, I have advised Colo. Parker to hold out to view, and examine many places, while he by some Agent, is endeavouring to possess himself, by purchase, the site near Harpers Ferry; without which he might be imposed on in the price of the Land. With very great esteem etc.[31]

[31] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, September 29, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 24th. instant, enclosing a note from Mr. Blagden, came to my hands on thursday last; the next day I sent up to Alexandria to see if a Painter could be had to execute the Painting of my houses in the City, and on what terms.

The principal Painters in that place, Messrs. McLeod and Lumley, promised (one or the other of them) to repair to the buildings the next day (yesterday) and tomorrow to furnish me with an estimate of what they will do the work for, and thereby enable me to give a decisive answer to the proposal mentioned in your letter.

In the meantime, if no material inconvenience would result from the measure, I hope Mr Blagden will not remove the Scaffold. Particularly, as the Painting shall be (of the windows and Cornice I mean) set about immediately after receiving the expected information, by some one or other. I am etc.[32]

*To JOSEPH ANTHONY

Mount Vernon, September 30, 1799.

Sir: I ought to begin this letter with an apology for having neglected to do, what should have been done long ago, that is, to remit the balance due on my subscription for Mr. Trumbulls Prints.

The truth is, that by waiting awhile for the unpacking of my Papers, to see if any thing would be found elucidative of my payment on this occasion, the thing had escaped me altogether, and occured again by accident.

[32] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

I now find that on the 5th of April 1790, I paid to John Trumbull Esqr. twelve guineas, which is entered in my Books as being one half of the Subscription for four copies of two Prints to be published by him.[33] This, I presume, was paid at the time of my Subscribing; and as you observe in your letter of the 26th of March, that the other half of the subscription money was to be paid on delivery of the Prints, I enclose you a check on the Bank of Pennsylvania for twelve guineas more, say fifty six dollars, for which sum, when you shall have received it, I pray you to advise me, specifying in the receipt, the purpose for which it was paid.[34] I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1799.

Mr. Anderson: When you intimated to me your sons wish to Rent my Distillery and Mill next year, and your inclination to join him therein, and in that case to relinquish the management of my business; I informed you that I had made Mr Lawrence Lewis (after you had declined taking them) an offer of both; together with the Farm at Dogue-run; and that until I received his answer, I did not conceive I was at liberty to treat, with another.

But as, on reconsideration of the matter, it appears uncertain where Mr Lewis is, but very certain that he is on no Post Road. As it is uncertain when, or whether ever, my letter may reach him. As it is not probable that he would from choice, wish to plunge at once into a scene of business to which he is a stranger. As I grow more and more anxious to form some new establishmt. for my Estate in this quarter, that may lessen the

[33] See Washington's letter to Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, Feb. 6, 1799, *ante*.

[34] On November 13 Washington wrote, briefly, again to Joseph Anthony, asking if he received the check above. A press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

expence of it, even if I should not render it more productive. And as I wish to know as soon as is convenient, whether this can be accomplished, that some preliminary arrangements may be adopted before New years day, when the new order of things would commence. I think I may venture to declare, without waiting for his answer, that if you and your son are disposed to offer me a rent, in any degree adequate to the value of the two concerns (and it is my wish that you should make money by them) that I am willing to treat with you on this subject.

And that you may have a more perfect understanding of my design in letting this property, I shall repeat what was mentioned in my former letter to you on this subject, viz, first to reduce the Income to certainty. and 2dly. to bring (disposing of Dogue run Farm at the sametime) the rest of the Mount Vernon concerns into so narrow a compass as that (if I am not called from home) I may be enabled to manage them with no more than my usual exercise, by laying down rules and compelling my Overseers to abide by them strictly, and this, as I propose to advertise the Fishery at the Ferry to be let, will give me but little trouble.

These are my primary objects, and for the accomplishment of them it is necessary I should add, that to avoid misunderstanding of every sort and kind, I propose to furnish *Nothing* but the Houses, and the apparatus's belonging thereto: an Inventory whereof is to be taken, and barring accidents, is to be returned in good order, at the expiration of the term for which they are Let.

Wood, for *Fuel only,* may be had on the terms mentioned in my former letter, if required; but even this, I have no wish to supply if it could be provided otherwise conveniently. My Scow, Boat and Waggon, when wanted, and could be spared, might be had at the rates others receive; but I would be under

no previous agreement to furnish them, thereby giving a [illegible] to call for and to complain, if they were not forthcoming when required.

If the hands at present in the Distillery, the Mill, and Coopers shop are preferred, they may be had at a reasonable hire; cloathed, but not fed, or taxes paid, by me. But in case the Coopers are hired, I shall condition that when my Casks, Tubs, Pails, &ca. want repairing, or new ones are to be made, I shall have a right to call for any one, or all of them, at a stipulated price by the day. And I should moreover condition, that all my Grist, on the usual Toll, demandable of others, shall always be first ground in scarce times of water, after the Distillery and your own familys want, are suppld.

If it be required, the ground designated in my former letter, may go with these premises, at an equitable Rent. But the manure wch. is made in, and about the Distillery, I must hold in reserve. And if the house in which you now live will be an accomodation, you may continue to occupy it.

You can judge better than any other, of your means to carry on these Manufactures. You know also, that the profit arising from both Mill and Distillery depend *altogether* upon the Spirit with which they are carried on, for if they are not adequately supplied with Grain and other essentials, they must prove unproductive, be the Rent what it may. On the other hand, at a reasonable one, between Man and Man, and I desire no other, a handsome profit might be made, as the old Books of my Mill will shew, if it is worked to advantage, for what has been, may be again, with equal Industry, and exertion.

I do not mean by anything which is contained in this letter, to intimate the most distant intention of removing you from your present employment the ensuing year; or to reduce your wages or emoluments; if it is your choice to remain as you are,

in preference to the New Scene which is proposed. Of this, I feel it incumbant on me to inform you; that your mind, while it is contemplating the latter measure may be perfectly at ease with respect to the former. I remain your sincere well wisher, friend, and Servant.

P. S. I see so little prospect of receiving money to answer my own indispensable calls otherwise than by borrowing from Banks, a measure that is extremely disagreeable to me, that to hold up an idea of lending any would be idle and deceptious.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, October 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: Enclosed are Messrs. McLeod and Lumleys prices for painting my Houses in the City. Theirs, as you will perceive, is extended in Virginia currency; that mentioned by you, I presume, is Maryland; and if so, the prices are nearly the same.

Wherefore, if the Painter in the City will, finding *all* materials, do the Windows and Cornice, and Doors, in short all the exterior of the Buildings, the roof excepted (which must remain for future decision) upon the Terms McLeod and Lumley have offered, and there is reason to expect faithful work from him, I have no desire to resort to Alexandria, although I know the former to be capital Painters, and respectable men.

The matter now rests with Mr. Blagden, with your advice, to employ whom he pleases. What is meant (in McLeods and Lumleys letter) by London measurement, I know not; and the mode of doing it ought to be ascertained before hand, to avoid mis-conception. Every one knows that a square yard contains nine feet, in common acceptation; but how many feet by *London* measurement, I know not.

Sanding, is designed to answer two purposes, durability, and presentation of Stone; for the latter purpose, and in my opinion a desirable one; it is the last operation, by dashing, as long as any will stick, the Sand upon a coat of thick paint. This is the mode I pursued with the painting at this place, and wish to have pursued at my houses in the City. To this, I must add, that as it is rare to meet with Sand perfectly white, and clean; all my Houses have been Sanded with the softest free stone, pounded and sifted; the fine dust must be seperated from the Sand by a gentle breeze, and the sifter must be of the finess the sand is required and and it is my wish to have those in the City done in the same way. If the stone cannot be thus prepared in the City, be so good as to inform me, and it shall be done here and sent up. It must be dashed hard on, and as long as any place appears bare. I am etc.[35]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Mount Vernon, October 4, 1799.

Sir: Your polite attention to my recommendation of a Son of General Spotswood to be a Midshipman in our Navy; has opened the door for another application of a similar kind in behalf of Mr. John Henley nephew to Mrs. Washington.

In April last, Mr Bassett, one of our Senators, and Cousin german to this young Gentleman, presented a letter from me to you respecting a younger brother of Mr. Henley's. The favourable reception it met with, and the appointment of young Spotswood (who is his Cousin also) to be a Midshipman, has inspired desires in John Henley to be a Midshipman on the Frigate building at Norfolk.

[35] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

I have heard a [illegible] this young man, but have personal acquaintance with him. Whatever you are pleased to say, or do, respecting [illegible] so good as to make me the medium of conveyance. His wish is, to enter the Service immediately. With very great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, October 6, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 3d. was recd. last Night. I doubt not, the Painting and sanding of such parts of my houses in the City as *now* require it, will be done well, with the best materials, and on the best terms; wherefore I cannot be otherwise than pleased.

As soon after this work is accomplished as I can make it convenient, I will visit the City, and take a view of my Buildings. To part with which, if it could be done on terms any ways advantageous, would comport better with my finances, than to retain them for the purpose of Renting. If, therefore, you should hear of any person, or persons, disposed to buy, and who are able and willing to advance part of the purchase money, and the residue on reasonable credit, I pray you to mention mine. To aid in the accomodation of the members of the General Government, was my *only* inducement to *these* buildings. For my own convenience, another site will be chosen when, if ever, I am in circumstances to encounter the expence.

When you have occasion to write to Colo. Thomason of Tortola, let me pray you to express to him the sense I have of the politeness he has been pleased to bestow on me, through you; and my thanks are due to you, for communicating it to, Dear Sir, Your etc.[36]

[36] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, October 7, 1799.

My dear Sir: Strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true, that your letter of the 30th of August never got to my hands until the 4th. instant. But it is not unusual for letters by private hands, to be thus delayed; and often to miscarry. By the Post they are certain of getting to hand and in time.

You will not be surprised after receiving this information, yt your request in favour of Mr. James Digges Diskman was not complied with, nor at your being disappointed of Whiskey, required for your own use: for whether sending it, would have placed you in my debt, or left me in yours, would have been no let to its going, *then,* or at any other time, when you want it.

Mr. Diskmans Rye, and yours wd, and now will, if it is yet to be disposed of, be received, Bushel for Gallon (delivered at my landing); and with respect to Wheat, in a letter written to you about a fortnight ago, I requested you to inform me if any Crops were to be bought in your part of the Country; informing you at the sametime of my desire to purchase a quantity. Enclosed, are the present prices of this article in Alexandria.[37] These I am willing *now* to give, or the Cash price at the time of delivery; to be ascertained by the purchasers Books, of *that* date. The Wheat to be delivered at my Landing.

We shall always be glad when your health, inclination and convenience will admit of it, to see Mrs. Washington and yourself at this place to whom, Mrs. Washington unites her best wishes with those of etc.[38]

[37] A photostat of the sheet of these prices, in the writing of Washington, accompanies the photostat of this letter.

[38] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

On October 7 Washington wrote to Tench Francis, thanking him for the shipment of articles for George Washington Parke Custis.

*To JOHN GILL

Mount Vernon, October 13, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 28th Ulto. came duly to hand, and I sent my Manager, Mr. Anderson, twice to Alexandria to receive from you, some explanation of your meaning respecting it.

If it be, to pay the Rents that are due, up to June last, according to contract, I shall consent to cancel the bargain wch. you entered into for my Land on Difficult run; although it is not a usual practice with me to make, and unmake bargains; and notwithstanding I had several reasons to believe (immediately after granting you a lease for it) that I could have obtained five guineas an Acre for it. Before it was engaged to you, I had been offered fifteen hundred pounds Cash, a thousand of which down; and that, the Person who keeps the Tavern at the bridge would have given more.

That you have done nothing with the Land, and that the purchase of it has not answered your expectation, is no argument for cancelling the bargain; for with equal propriety, if by any adventitious circumstance the price had rose to ten guineas an Acre, I might have made a similar proposal to you.

The contract was of your own seeking, you, no doubt, thought you saw a profit arising to yourself from it; immediately after it was made I had (as observed before) good reason to believe I could have obtained more; *now* property of *all* kinds has declined in value; But the bargain, you must be sensible, is binding; and although there may be nothing on the Premises on which to make distress for the Rents I am not, thereby deprived of another resort neither of which is not my wish.

If it is inconvenient for you to pay money, I will (understanding that you have brought in a Cargo of Goods) receive such articles thereof in payment, as are suitable for cloathing my Negros. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To JOHN AVERY

Mount Vernon, October 13, 1799.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 2d. Instant.

I never conceived myself under any legal, or even honorary agreement with Mr. Jno. Francis (of Philadelphia) [illegible] did, of the Houses I am building in the Federal City. But as he was the first that applied for them, and an idea had gone forth that he was to be the occupant, it was a compliment I thought due to him, to inform him in the *first* instance of the terms on which they were to be let.

To my last letter to him, I have received no answer; whether this is to be ascribed to his not having received it, or to his thinking an answer unnecessary, I am unable to decide. Be it either the houses *now* are equally open to the occupancy of any tenant, or tenants, or respectable character, and ability to pay the rent, or Rents, [illegible] think I informed you in my last. the exterior, has the appearance of one House, and interiorly, may be so likewise; at the same time by closing the communication between them within, they become perfectly seperated and distinct.

As you have already been informed of my terms, and these are so widely apart from your proposal, it is hardly necessary to trouble you with the details, required in your letter; especially as I should be obliged to have recourse to the Undertaker to be furnished with the answer; and still more especially as I am not disposed to rent the Houses for a term of years; thereby impeding the value of them, if (as I believe will be the case) I should find it convenient to part with them.

After this explanation of my terms; thereof, you may yet wish to have the queries contained in your last, solved; it shall be done upon notice thereof to Sir Your etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 13, 1799.

Dear Sir: Inconvenient as it was to my finances, I have been induced to erect convenient to the Capitol, in the Federal City, two houses[39] which have the exterior of one, but by an arrangement of communication may, according to the desire of the occupant, or occupants, may have all the conveniences of one, or be entirely seperate and distinct.

For these buildings a person of the name of John Avery, wishes . . .[40] ding house in the building erected for the Governors of New York . . . for the occupancy of them, . . . purpose. In person and character he is a stranger to me; wherefore I take the liberty to enquire of you *confidentially* whether the latter is, and whether . . . Rent of about $1200 would be sure on his part. This information (especially . . . to be too full of himself) wd. very much oblige My dear Sir Yrs. always.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1799.

Sir: In the extracts from the Books and documents in the War Office, which were sent to me when you requested that I would fix the relative rank of the Field Officers of the 12 Regiments, Colo. Parker is stated to have been an older Captain in the Revolutionary War, than Colo. Bentley, and they were accordingly marked by me in that Order, vizt. Parker the 9th and Bentley the 10th Lieutt. Colonel.

[39] Washington has written in the margin opposite this point "to aid in accommodating the members of Congress.

[40] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

I have since been informed that Colo. Parker says he was a younger Captain than Bentley, and that the error in the statement from the War Office arose from there having been another Captain from Virginia of the name of Thomas Parker, which must have been mistaken for him; and he is very desireous that the error should be rectified lest it should be thought that his taking rank of Colo. Bentley proceded from misrepresentation on his part. You will therefore be pleased to make the alteration accordingly, if it should not have been discovered and rectified already. With due consideration etc.[41]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1799.

Sir: Since writing to you on the 29th ultimo, I have received a letter from Colo. Parker, informing me that he had fixed upon a spot, on the public Ground, at Harper's Ferry, as the most eligable place for cantoning the 7th, 8th and 9th Regiments, agreeably to your instructions, and the ideas which I communicated to him. And, I presume, measures are now taking to provide huts at that place for these Regiments.

Colo. Parker has undoubtedly written to you on this subject since fixing upon the spot; And as the advanced season of the year will admit of no delay in collecting and hutting the Troops, I trust that the 7th and 9th Regiments, as well as the 8th, will receive immediate orders to march to that place.

The enclosed letter, mentioning the wish of Major Campbell to be appointed a Division Inspector, has been put into my hands, and as I have no personal knowledge of Major Campbell, and the choice of this Officer laying with the Inspector

[41] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

General, I have thought proper to forward it to you as I received it. With very great esteem etc.[42]

*To JOHN GILL

Mount Vernon, October 19, 1799.

Sir: Sending every other day *only* to the Post Office (unless something special makes it expedient to send oftener) your letter of the 16th. did not reach my hands until the 17th at night.

Herewith, the Plat sent you by Mr. Swift, is returned. But as my land is not laid down in connection therewith, I have derived but little information from the communication thereof; and as you remark "it does not quite join your tract" I see little or no advantage it would be to me to possess it. Especially as the whole contains but one hundred and ten acres, and that part west of Difficult run you propose to reserve; without . . .[43] contents of the part which lyes . . . side. A purchase of this sort would be some thing like "buying a Pig in a poke."

If the part *you have,* or . . . amounting in the whole to one hundred and ten acres, was adjoining to, and making the shape of mine tolerably . . . enlargement, I should not (as I told you, when I had the pleasure of seeing you at this place) have had any objection to receiving the Land in discharge of the Back Rents, and to the renewal of our former Bargain.

Whether this can be accomplished or not, rests with you to determine, and I shall wait until I hear from you on this subject, before I shall go, or send, to examine the quality and situation of the land you would give in payment; for on these also the measure, in some degree, would rest. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

[42] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[43] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, October 20, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 29th. Ult, and the 9th. instant, have been duly received; and for the information given in them, I feel myself obliged.

In a note which I have just recd. from Mr Stoddert, to whom I had occasion to write on business, is added in the close thereof

The President has decided that the Mission to France shall proceed without delay. The Ministers, now here, will embark on board the Frigate United States at New Port, about the first of November.

This being the case, I shall take it for granted that the measure has been duly considered in all its relations; and that a favourable result is expected: than whom no one more ardently wishes it than does Dear Sir etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ELIZABETH DANDRIDGE HENLEY

Mount Vernon, October 20, 1799.

Dear Madam: You will perceive by the Enclosed, which is left open for your perusal before it is forwarded, that your son John, is appointed a Mid-shipman in the Navy of the United States.[44]

You will press him to take the oath of Office, required by the Secretary of the Navy, without delay; and forward it to that Gentleman in the manner he directs. Enclosing it in a letter couched in some such terms as you will find on the other side.

[44] A draft of a letter from John D. Henley to the Secretary of the Navy has been drawn up by Washington on the verso of the letter to Mrs. Henley, the last paragraph of which reads: "Your orders I shall strictly obey; and I pray you to be assured, that if zeal for the welfare of my Country, and a strict attention to the Orders of my Superior Officers can accomplish it, the President shall have no cause to regret the confidence he has been pleased to place in Sir Your Most etc."

From the date of which letter of Acceptance, his pay will commence, according to the information given therein.

The Oath may be taken before any respectable Magistrate, who must certify the same, at the bottom thereof. And I hope by his punctuality, and diligence in performing the duties which will be required of him, and his Obedience to orders, he will give sufficient evidence of his deserving this first grade in the Naval Service, and thereby entitle himself to promotn.

As I expect your Sister[45] is writing to you, I shall say nothing concerning her, or family matters; only adding that with the greatest truth I remain etc.

PS. If your Son John can write a tolerable hand, the Letter to the Secy. of the Navy had better be written by himself than any other; taking care to spell his words well.[46]

*To ISAAC WEATHERINGTON

Mount Vernon, October 20, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 20th of August is but just come to hand. I thank you for the information contained in it of the Tresspasses which are committed on the small piece of land which I have adjoining to yours, and Squire McCrakin's.[47]

It would, in future be friendly and obliging in you, or him (as my Land adjoins your tracts) to endeavour to prevent such invasion of private property; or if this cannot be done by

[45] Mrs. Martha Washington.

[46] From a photostat of the original kindly presented by Stephen B. Luce, of Boston, Mass.

On October 20 Washington wrote, briefly, to the Secretary of the Navy, thanking him for the appointment of Henley. "I unite most sincerely with you in wishing, that the Mission to France, on the eve of embarkation, will be productive of the good the President expects and that an honorable, permanent and happy Peace for this Country, may be the result of the measure." The press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

[47] MacCracken or McCrackin.

admonishing the Tresspassers of the injustice and impropriety of such conduct, then to furnish me with the names, places of abuse, and other circumstances of those who pay so little regard to the rights of others, that they may be prosecuted to the utmost extent of the Law; for such iniquitous practices ought to be made a common cause. If this letter should ever reach your hands be so good as to acknowledge the rect. of it by the line of Posts, and yr. letter will get speedily to hand; by private oppertunities there is no certainty, I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM HERBERT

Mount Vernon, October 21, 1799.

Dear Sir: Enclosed are Two negociable Notes,[48] sent to the Bank of Alexandria for collection. The amount of which, when received, to be placed to my credit.

I begin to feel the necessity more clearly, of renewing my note than I do a prospect of receiving what is due to me from others. I mention it now that measures for accomplishing of it may be taken in time.

Having forgot the name of the person who has the disposal of Stamps, I take the liberty of sending you enclosed a five dollar bill to be applied in the purchase of them and to pay for those you have been so good as to furnish me.

There are some pecuniary matters between Mr. John Gill and me in discharge of which he offers me some land on Difficult run (I think at lot No 10) which he says is part of Land that belonged to yourself and Mr. Swift. If you can give me any information respecting its situation (particularly whether it adjoins a small tract which I have leased to him at the

[48] A memorandum below Washington's signature gives the notes as from Jno. Godard [*sic*] for $80 at 60 days from September 20; and from George Gilpin for $374 at 60 days from August 23.

Bridge); the quality of it; his title thereto, &ca. &ca. I should feel myself obliged thereby. With very great esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To ABRAHAM SHEPHERD

Mount Vernon, October 21, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 15th inst. offering your services as Colonel in the Provisional Army, has been duly received.

Whenever the appointment of the Officers of this Army shall take place, it will be pleasing to find, in the list of Candidates, the names of such as were valuable officers in our Revolutionary war.[49] They will meet with due attention, and among them your letter will not be forgotten. I am etc.[50]

*To JOHN GILL

Mount Vernon, October 22, 1799.

Sir: I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 19th instant.

The sample of the Survey which you sent me will not answer my purpose, for which reason and because I am indisposed to throw difficulties in the way of your wish to cancel our agreement respecting my land on Difficult run, I will agree to take your small tract in discharge of the two years Rent which you are owing me; Provided it does not contain *less* than One hundred acres; and provided also, that upon examination, it shall be found to answer any useful purpose of mine. This examination shall be made as soon as it is convenient. In the meanwhile matters may remain in Statu quo. I take it for granted that the Land you offer, is free from encumbrances, and a good title thereto can be made to Sir, Your etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

[49] Shepherd had been a captain in the Eleventh Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line.

[50] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

*To WILLIAM VANS MURRAY

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1799.

Dear Sir: Within the space of a few days, I have been favoured with your letters of the 26th. of July, and duplicate of one of the 7th. of April (the original is missing), and of those dated the 9th. and 17th of August, with their enclosures. For the information given in these, and for your kindness in sending me a sketch of the Water throwing Mill, I feel much obliged, and thank you for the trouble you have been at in making the drawing of it; being persuaded of its utility, although advanced as I am, and engaged in other pursuits, I shall not be able to avail myself of the insight it conveys. Others however may, and I shall take care to make it known on all proper occasions.

The Affairs of Europe have taken a most important, and interesting turn. What will be the final result of the uninterrupted successes of the combined Arms, (so far as the accounts which have been received in this Country, are brought down) is not for a man at the distance of 3000 miles from the great theatre of Action, to predict; but he may wish, and ardently wish on principles of humanity, and for the benevolent purpose of putting a stop to the further effusion of human blood, that the successful Powers may know at what Point to give cessation to the Sword, for the purpose of negociation. It is not uncommon, however, in prosperous gales, to forget that adverse winds may blow. Such *was* the case with France. Such *may* be the case of the Coalesced Powers, against her. A bye stander sees more of the game, generally, than those who are playing it; so, Neutral Nations may be better enabled to draw a line between the contending Parties, than those who are Actors in the War. My own wish is, to see every thing settled upon

the best and surest foundation for the Peace and happiness of mankind, without regard to this, that, or the other Nation. A more destructive Sword never was drawn (at least in modern times) than this war has produced. It is time to sheathe it, and give Peace to mankind.

A severe Electioneering contest has just closed in the state of Pennsylvania; adverse to the fortunes the Federal Party, by a considerable majority in favour of Chief Justice McKean agt. Mr. Ross, Senator for that State. Great pains was taken *both* sides, and considerable abuse of character on *one* [illegible] neither was exempt from it.

You are going to be employed in an important, and delicate Negociation; for the success of which, in *all* its relations, no one more ardently, and sincerely prays than I do. Your Colleagues in this business will be able to give you such accurate details of the internal concerns of our Country, as not only to render any attempt of mine to do it nugatory, but injudicious; for which reason I shall refer you to them for the state of our Political, Prospects &ca.

I most devoutly wish that the cogent, indeed unanswerable arguments you urged to dissuade our friend ———[51] from visiting the United States in the present crisis of our Affairs may have prevailed. The measure would be injudicious in *every* point of view (so says my judgment) in which it can be placed. Embarrassing to himself; Embarrassing to his friends. and possibly embarrassing to the Government in the result. His final decision however must have been made 'ere this, I shall add no more on this head, nor indeed, for the reasons already assigned, on any other subject. Mrs. Washington who has been much indisposed for sometime past, (now better) unites her best wishes with mine, for Mrs. Murray and yourself; and with sincere and affectionate esteem etc.

[51] Lafayette.

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1799.

Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing a letter to Colo. Parker, which I have forwarded to him, and at the same time repeated my instructions for *hutting* the Troops, in conformity with the idea which you originally suggested.

I presume that the impression made on your mind by Colo. Parker's letter, respecting Winter Quarters for the three Regiments, must have been erroneous. At the time when I received and transmitted your first letter to Colo. Parker on this subject, Mr. Lear was in Berkley, and as he was well acquainted with the public ground at Harper's Ferry, and other situations in the vicinity of it, he informs me that Colo. Parker requested he would accompany him to that place, and give him any information and assistance in his power towards carrying into effect the Orders for hutting the Troops. This was readily complied with; and upon an examination of the public ground, and making the necessary enquiries, it was determined, that no situation in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry (even if it could have been obtained) was so eligable as that belonging to the United States. Colo. Parker therefore fixed upon a spot which appeared, on every account, the most convenient for hutting, and determined that the huts (which were to be built by the Soldiers) should be made of rough logs, 16 feet sqr. each (to contain 12 men) and covered with slabs, which would be much cheaper than plank or boards. As the timber which could be had from the public ground might not be sufficient for more than one half the huts wanting, Colo. Parker requested Mr. Mackie, Agent for the War Department at Harper's Ferry, to make the necessary enquiries and engagements for procuring such further quantity

of logs and slabs as might be wanting. His motive for engaging Mr. Mackie in the business was, that, he had been in the habit of procuring Articles for the public use in that part of the Country, he could do it to more advantage than any other person, and his enquiries for them would not be so likely to raise the price as would those of another Agent. Had any other place been fixed upon for hutting the Troops, the purchase of timber, fuel &c. &c. would have been as necessary as at this; and in no situation proper for the Troops, could they have been procured cheaper.

From the foregoing account, which is given to me by Mr Lear (to whom Colo. Parker refered me for particular information respecting the arrangements he had made for hutting the Troops) you will see that Barracks were not contemplated by Colo. Parker, and that the huts were to be built in as œconomical a manner as could be expected. I have, however, as I observed before, repeated my instructions to Colo. Parker, that the Troops should be hutted in the manner they were in the late war, which he must well recollect.

Presuming that the plan of Barracks has never been substituted by Colo. Parker for that of huts, it is, in my opinion, unnecessary to make any arrangements for quartering the 9th and 10th Regiments in the places which you suggest, vizt. at Fredericktown and Carlisle. From the view which I had of the Barracks at the latter place in the year 1794, I am convinced that the expense of repairing them, fit for the Soldiers during winter, would be much greater than that of building huts. What the situation of the Barracks at Frederick town is, I am unable to say; but I presume they are not much, if any, better than those at Carlisle. And, at any rate, this dispersed situation of the troops would defeat a primary and important object, I mean that of having them in one body, where they can be under the eye of a General Officer, and where the disciplining and

training the Soldiers can be much better effected than if they were in detached Corps.

From the information of a Gentleman lately from Winchester, I have reason to believe that Colo. Parker's Regiment is at Harper's Ferry before this; and I think no time should be lost in ordering the other Regiments to the same place; for there cannot be a doubt, from the circumstances mentioned in this letter, but that Colo. Parker has taken measures for hutting the Troops agreeably to our original idea; and as the Soldiers will build their own huts, it is necessary they should begin them as soon as possible.

I cannot close this letter without mentioning that I have heard of repeated complaints for want of money to pay the Troops raised in this quarter, as well as for other purposes relating to them. If these complaints are well founded, you know, as well as I do, the evils which must result from such defect, and I cannot but be astonished at it, when it is well known that appropriations are made for the pay and support of the Troops, and the money is undoubtedly in the Treasury. I would wish you to inquire into this matter, and if the complaints are founded, it would be well to know from whence proceeds the inattention or deficiency. With very great estee metc.[52]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS PARKER

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1799.

Sir: You will perceive, by the enclosed letter from General Hamilton, that he has taken up an idea, founded upon your communication to him on the subject, that you had substituted Barracks, instead of Huts, for the Winter Quarters of the three Regiments at Harper's Ferry.

[52] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

I presume that General Hamilton must have had an erroneous impression made on his mind by some expression in your letter to him; for, agreeably to the instructions contained in his first letter to you, which were confirmed by me in my letter of the 28 ultimo, nothing more was intended than that *huts* should be built for the temporary accomodation of the troops, in the same manner as they were in the late war for the Winter Quarters of the Army, and I recommended to you a regularity in building similar to what was observed on the like occasions during the Revolution.

The information which I received from Mr. Lear, to whom you refered me for particulars on this subject, was, that upon the examination of the ground, and every enquiry you could make, no place was found more eligable for hutting the Troops than the public ground at Harper's Ferry; that you had fixed upon a spot for that purpose as mentioned in your letter to me; that you had determined to have the huts built by the Soldiers, of rough logs and covered with slabs as the cheapest covering, to be about 16 feet sqr. to accommodate 12 men in each; that, as the timber on the public ground would not afford logs enough for more huts than would accommodate one or one and an half Regiments, you had requested Mr. Mackie,[53] Agent for the War Department at Harpers Ferry, to engage slabs and such logs as could not be furnished from the public ground; that, altho' it would have been desireable to have had timber and fuel on the spot sufficient for hutting and furnishing the Troops; yet, as this could not have been done in the vicinity of Harpers Ferry without making a purchase of those Articles, it was concluded that, under all circumstances, they would come as cheap to the public at Harper's Ferry as at any other place. And, that as you conceived the present accommodations would be merely

[53] John Mackey (Mackie).

temporary, you should make them as œconomical as circumstances would permit.

Under the impression made by this information, I approved the measures you had taken for hutting the Troops, and I am persuaded that General Hamilton must have been under some misapprehension when he concluded that you intended to substitute Barracks for Huts. I have therefore written to him fully on the subject, explaining it agreeably to the information given me by Mr. Lear, and have desired him to order the other Regiments to Harper's Ferry without delay, where I presume your's is already, and I trust that every arrangement in your power will be made to enable the Troops to commence building their huts immediately on their arrival.

You will see the necessity of your Answering General Hamilton's letter without delay, and giving him every information on the subject of it. You will also be pleased to let me know if you have seen cause to deviate from the general plan of hutting the Troops which you at first proposed, and which was communicated to me by Mr. Lear, as stated in this letter. With great esteem etc.[54]

*To DANIEL MORGAN

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 8th instt. came duly to hand, and I should have given it an earlier acknowledgment, but waited to see Mr. Lawe. Lewis, whom I expected here every day, before I did so.

He is now arrived, and informs me that his brother John (as Executor of his father's Will) is determined not to pay your demand against that Estate unless he is compelled to it; and that

[54] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear. A copy, also by Lear, is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

he has requested a suit might be brought to try the merits of the case.

Under these circumstances I conceived it would be needless to write to him on the subject, and therefore return his father's letter to you, under this cover, by the Post, as the most certain means of its getting safe to your hands. With great esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

To DANIEL MORGAN

Mount Vernon, October 26, 1799.

Dear Sir: I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 19th instant, recommending the Revd. Mr. Hill as Chaplin to the Troops to be stationed at Harper's Ferry.

I do not know whether any provision has been made for Chaplins, and, at any rate, I cannot tell whether or not it will be thought proper to engage a temporary Chaplin, which, from the tenor of your letter seems to be Mr. Hill's object. I shall, however, transmit your letter to the Secretary of War, and will communicate to you whatever he may give me in reply on the subject.

If provision is not already made for Chaplins I think it will be done, and it would certainly be very desireable to engage in that capacity such respectable Characters as Mr. Hill appears to be.

Wishing a perfect restoration of your health, I am, etc.[55]

[H.S.P.]

*To ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 30th Ulto. came duly to hand, but as it appeared from the tenor of it, that I might soon expect another from you, with my Deed in the hands of Mr. Jno. Brooke

[55] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

(one of the Administrators of Jas. Mercer Esqr. deceased) I intended to have postponed the acknowledgment thereof until then; but as Mr Brooke seems to have forgot *his* promise, I shall no longer delay thanking you for the trouble you have been at, on my Account, in this business. My best wishes in wch. Mrs. Washington and the family at this place unite, are offered for yourself Mrs Spotswood and all at New Post. With very great esteem etc.

P. S. I was near forgetting to inform you, that if the *original* Deed of conveyance from me (as Attorney for Colo. George Mercer) to Colo. Fielding Lewis, is produced, that I shall have no objection to certifying before fresh evidence that I did at the time, and in the manner specified in the Instrument, put my signature thereto. But I can do no *new act* relative to this business; having invariably refused this in similar cases, the business being taken out of my hands by a Decree of the high Court of Chancery in this Commonwealth. [N.Y.P.L.]

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1799.

Sir: Since writing the enclosed letter to you yesterday, I have received a letter from Colo. Parker, and one from Mr. Mackey, Agent for the War Department at Harper's Ferry; stating the impracticability of procuring plank &c. sufficient for covering the huts intended to have been built for three Regiments at Harper's Ferry.

In consequence of this information I have again written to Colo. Parker, under this date, by Express, conforming my instructions, respecting Winter Quarters for the Troops, to the present state of things. I enclose a copy of my letter to him of this date, as well as that of yesterday, which will exhibit a full

view of the business, and enable you to give any additional instructions you may thing proper, directly to Colonel Parker.

Altho' I had determined to take no charge of any military operations, unless the Troops should be called into the field; yet, under the present circumstances, and considering that the advanced season of the year will admit of no delay in providing Winter Quarters for the Troops, I have willingly given my aid in this business, and shall never decline any assistance in my power, when necessary, to promote the good of the Service.

On the first view, I supposed that the Regiment in this State, commanded by Colo. Bentley, was included in the three to be stationed at Harper's Ferry. I find, however, that it is not. What provision is made for the Winter Quarters of that Regiment?

I have not said anything to Colo. Parker respecting compensation, or reimbursement of Expences he may incur by attending to Quartering the other Regiments, if they are seperated from his. On this subject you will be pleased to write him, if necessary. With very great esteem etc.[56]

*To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(Private)

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1799.

Dear Sir: To my official letters I refer you for my communication, with Colo. Parker. I have no conception however, that such difficulties as are ennumerated in his and Mr. Mackie's letters, can exist in the erection of simple Hutts, (such as served us last War); and so I am about to inform the former.

I am averse to the seperation of the 8th. 9th and 10th Regiments under any circumstances which exist at present; and

[56] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

still more so to the distribution of them into *three States.* If they cannot *all* be accomodated at Harpers Ferry, the Barracks at Frederick town (if sufficient to contain two Regiments) is to be preferred, vastly, to Carlisle; for as much as that it is only twenty miles from the Arsenal which is in great forwardness at the former place; and because fuel alone, at either Frederick Town or Carlisle for the Winter, would double all the expence of the establishment at Harpers ferry. I have gone thus far into this business, and have given these opinions, because you desired it; and because, from the peculiar situation of things, it seemed, in a manner, almost indispensable. But I wish exceedingly, that the state of Mrs. Pinckney's health, and other circumstances, would permit General Pinckney to come forward, and on his *own view* to decide on matters. To engage partially in Military arrangements is not only contrary to my original design, but unpleasant in its nature and operation; inasmuch as it incurs responsibility with out proper means for decision.

With respect to Major Campbell,[57] or any of those who are applying for appointments in the Inspectorate, I have no predeliction whatsoever towards them; handing in their names, with the testimonials of their merit and fitness as I receive them, for information *only,* is all I have in view.

The purport of your (private) letter of the 21st, with respect to a late decision, has surprized me exceedingly. I was surprized at the *measure,*[58] how much more so at the manner of it? This business seems to have commenced in an evil hour, and under unfavourable auspices; and I wish mischief may not tread in all its steps, and be the final result of the measure. A wide door was open, through which a retreat might have been made from the first faux-peaux; the shutting of which, to those

[57] Maj. William Campbell, of the Eighth Infantry, Provisional Army.
[58] The appointment of envoys to France.

who are not behind the Curtain, and are as little acquainted with the Secrets of the Cabinet as I am, is, from the present aspect of European Affairs, incomprehensible. But I have the same reliance on Providence which you express, and trust that matters will *end well,* however unfavourable they may appear at present. With very great esteem etc.[59]

To RICHARD KIDDER MEADE

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1799.

Dear Sir: By the last Mail I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 15th inst. with its enclosures.

Whenever the appointments for the Provisional Army take place, the Characters you have recommended will be brought into view, and their respective merits duly considered and attended to. And, in the mean time, I will thank you for the names of such others as you can, with confidence, recommend, and who would be willing to serve.

Mrs. Washington unites with me in reciprocating the respects and good wishes of your self and Mrs. Meade. With very great esteem etc.[60]

To LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS PARKER

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1799.

Sir: I wrote to you very fully yesterday on the subject of hutting the Troops at Harper's Ferry, and enclosed a letter from General Hamilton on the same subject. The Messenger who took that letter to the Post Office, brought from thence your letter of the 24th instant, and one of the same date from Mr.

[59] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.
[60] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

Mackey. As these letters contain information which may make it proper to countermand, in some measure, the instructions given in my letter of yesterday, I shall be obliged to send this by a special Messenger, as the Mail left Alexa. for Berkley, early this morng and will not go into that part of the Country again 'till next week.

As a primary object in quartering three Regts. at Harper's Ferry was to collect the Troops in as large bodies as could conveniently be done, from whence many advantages would result, particularly in training and disciplining the Soldiers, I confess I am not a little mortified that the impracticability of getting plank &ca. at that place for building huts, as stated in the letters from yourself and Mr. Mackey, seems likely to defeat this design. I can hardly conceive how the quantity of plank mentioned by Mr. Mackey, as the calculation of Genl. Hamilton, vizt. 84,000 feet, could be wanting; as the intention was to have the huts built in the manner they used to be for our Army in the late war, when we found it no difficult matter for the Soldiers to cut the logs and build their huts in a very short time, without the aid of large quantities of plank. They were covered in the same manner as are the common log Cabbins which are found in every part of the Country; and the principal, and indeed almost only use for plank, was to make floors for the Officers huts and doors &c. for the others.

If it be possible to have the three Regiments provided for in this way, at Harper's Ferry, it is very desireable that it should be done. But if that is impracticable, then you will be pleased to hut your own Regiment there, and another, if possible; and the remainder must be quartered as near to that place as accommodations can be had; which I presume will be at Frederick town, where, I am informed, there are Barracks belonging to

the State of Maryland, which I have no doubt can be borrowed for this winter, if they can be made comfortable for the Troops at any reasonable expence. You will, therefore, after determining as precisely as may be what number of the Troops can be quartered at Harper's Ferry, proceed to Frederick town, examine the state of the Barracks there, make such enquiries and estimates as will enable you to determine, with certainty, how many Troops can be accommodated there, and take such measures as to enable you, if possible, to have the whole of the three Regiments, vizt. the 8th 9th and 10th stationed there and at Harper's Ferry. Altho' there are Barracks at Carlisle; yet from the view which I had of them in the year 1794, I am persuaded the expense of repairing them, fit for winter quarters, would be at least as great as to make huts where all the materials are to be purchased; and its distance from the central point of Rendezvous (Harpers Ferry) would make it very objectionable on that ground. My wish is, if the three Regiments cannot be all collected to *one* point, that they should not occupy more than *two* places, and these as near to each other as the nature of the thing will permit. Another disadvantage would attend their being quartered at Carlisle (which indeed also applies to Frederick town), I mean the heavy expense of fuel in an open Country and in the neighbourhood of a considerable Town. This would be an additional motive for concentering the Troops as much as possible, for a large number in one body will not consume so much as they wou'd do if divided.

General Hamilton informs me that the ninth Regiment is ordered to Frederick town, and the tenth to York town, there to receive further Orders. And as these will be merely halting places, until arrangements are made for Winter Quarters, you will see the necessity of a prompt execution of the instructions

contained in this letter, a copy of which I shall forward to General Hamilton; to whom, as well as to myself, you will be pleased to make a Report of your proceedings.

As it was my declared resolution, when I accepted the command of the Army, not to take charge of any military operations unless the Army should be called into the field, I have given these instructions at the pressing desire of General Hamilton, as his distance from the part of the Country where these Regts. are to be quartered, would occasion delays in his communications which at this advanced state of the Season might be very injurious to the service. With great esteem etc.[61]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, October 27, 1799.

Sir: The enclosed letters, from Genl. Morgan and Captn. G. S. Washington, recommending the Revd. Mr. Hill, as Chaplin to the Troops about to be stationed at Harper's Ferry, have come to my hands, and are now forwarded for your inspection.

I do not observe in the "Act for the better organizing the Troops of the U. S. &ca." that any provision is made for Chaplins. Whether they are provided for in any other existing law, you can best tell. Mr. Hill appears to be a deserving and valuable Character; but from the tenor of General Morgan's letter, he seems rather to have it in view to officiate for a time with the Troops that may be at Harper's Ferry, than to wish a permanent appointment. Whether this is his intention or not I cannot say, neither do I know whether his services could be admitted on those terms. With your first convenience I will thank you to inform me on this subject. With due consideration etc.[61]

[61] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN OGLE

Mount Vernon, October 28, 1799.

Sir: It having been determined to station three Regiments of the United States Troops at Harper's Ferry, orders were given to provide huts there for their winter Quarters; but, from the Report of Colo. Parker, the Officer to whom this business was committed, it appears impracticable to provide the materials, in due season, to build the huts at that place. It therefore becomes necessary to procure other quarters without delay: And as the Barracks near Frederick town, belonging, as I am informed, to the State of Maryland, would probably, on many accounts, be the most eligable, I have to request the favor of Your Excellency to let me know if they could be had this winter, for the use of the United States, in case they should be wanting, and should be found, on inspection, to answer the purpose without incurring an unreasonable expence to the United States.

Your Excellency's answer to this, as soon as is convenient, will much oblige me. And, if there be no objection to the Barracks being occupied by the United States Troops, if wanting, it would save much time to have some person, in or near Frederick Town,[62] empowered to communicate on the subject with Colo. Thomas Parker, of the eighth United States Regiment, to whose charge this business is committed, and who will be either at Frederick town, or with his Regiment at Harper's Ferry.

Altho' it was my determination, when I accepted the Command of the Army, not to take charge of any military operations, unless the Troops should be called into the Field; yet, on the present occasion, I am urged to give some instructions for providing Winter Quarters for three Regiments which are to be stationed at or near Harper's Ferry, as much delay, and consequently injury to the service at this advanced season, would

[62] The draft, at this point, has "or in the neighbourhood of it."

arise from waiting for communications from Genl. Hamilton, at the distance he is from that part of the Country. It is therefore owing to this cause that I address your Excellency on the subject. With great Respect etc.[63] [MD. H. S.]

*To WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, October 29, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 8th instant has been duly received and this letter will be handed to you by Mr. Lawe. Lewis, to whom I have rented my Mill and Distillery, and who comes into your parts to see if he can procure (on reasonable terms) grain with which to keep them employed. Your advice and aid in enabling him to obtain these would be serviceable to him, and obliging to me. Mr. Lewis is a cautious man, and I persuade myself will scrupulously fulfill any contracts he may enter into, you will be perfectly safe, I conceive, in declaring this.

Two hundred gallons of Whiskey will be ready this day for your call, and the sooner it is taken the better, as the demand for this article (in these parts) is brisk. The Rye may be sent when it suits your convenience, letting we know in the meantime, the quantity I may rely on, that my purchase of this grain may be regulated thereby.

Mrs. Washington has got tolerably well again, and unites with me in every good wish for you and yours. With very great esteem and friendship etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To ALLYN PRIOR

Mount Vernon, November 1, 1799.

Sir: Your letter of the 30th Ulto. came to my hands yesterday afternoon.

[63] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

As I propose, next Spring to have my Lands on the Ohio critically examined by a Person in whose integrity, and judgment I can confide, I am indifferent with respect to the sale, of any of them, at *this time,* especially of that tract on Mill Creek which I conceive must be particularly fine, or possessing some valuable properties, from the number of applications which have been made to me of it.

If, however, it is disposed of before such examination is made, the terms will be, twelve dollars pr Acre. One third down; the other two thirds by annual Instalments with Interest; and a Mortgage on the premises for the security of payment. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

Mount Vernon, November 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the . . .[64] inst. from New Port, came duly to hand, and gave Mrs. Washington . . . much indisposed . . . again) and myself much pleasure to hear of Mrs. Pinckney encreasing health A little time . . . fine settled weather we enjoy at present, will, we hope, restore it entirely.

The Rout from Trenton, or Philadelphia to Harpers Ferry, is, as you have marked, Lancaster, York, Hanover (or better known by McAllisters Town) Frederick Town. The Road upon the whole good.

But another and better reason will induce you to take it. By a letter lately received from Colo. Parker, who had been Instructed to make arrangements for Quartering (in Huts) the . . . Regiments on ground belonging to the U. S. (where the Arsenal is established in the vicinity of Harpers Ferry . . .

[64] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

and does not furnish sufficient . . . for building them, and that the Water, in both the Potomac and Shenandoah, are now so low, owing to the great drought of the Summer . . . no transportation in . . . purpose of supplying those . . .; and as the Season was so . . ., that part of these Regiments had better go to Frederick Town in Maryld, than winter in Pennsylvania.

Seperation of the Troops, was so contrary to my expectation and wishes, that I wrote two or three letters to Colo. Parker . . . them, I resolved to send Colo Lear to Harpers Ferry, and on the *spot* to determine whether such a seperation was indispensable; and in *that case* to proceed to Frederick Town to see which condition, and under what circumstances the Barracks at that place were; and whether attainable or not; as I believe they belong to the State. I have written a hypothetical letter on the Subject of the Governor thereof,[65] to avoid delay, if such necessity is manifest. Frederick Town is not more than twenty miles from Harpers Ferry, but the distance from the latter to Carlisle is considerably . . . of the Troops ought . . . sible, notwithstanding . . . Barracks at the latter, belonging . . . The condition the . . . certain it is that . . . cost more than the whole . . . at Harpers Ferry, . . . Cantoned at that place.

The peculiar . . . you were thrown by the . . . of Mrs. Pinckney, and Genl. Hamilton . . . I would Instruct Colo. Parker . . . than he could in this business . . . inducements to . . . therein; for to go partially into military operations, is not only . . . upon, but adverse to my principles.

The situation of European Affairs is interesting . . . much watchfulness. . . . information respecting the Suspension . . . ing of our Envoys has been . . . is in my opinion from the . . . may be false. I thank you for the . . . of Mr. Mountflorence . . .

[65] See Washington's letter to Gov. Benjamin Ogle, Oct. 28, 1799, *ante*.

Mrs. Washington and Mr and Mrs. Lewis and . . . unite there best wishes with mine for the perfect restoration of Mrs Pinckneys health. With Compliments to yourself and the young . . . At all times I am etc.

P. S. . . . I have in my last by Genl. Hamilton asked what was to be the destination of the 7th Regiment for . . . been mentioned in his Communication to me.

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

(Private)

Moutn Vernon, November 3, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your private and confidential letter of the 24th. Ulto. came duly, and safely to hand. Its contents, I confess, surprised me. But as men will view the same things in different lights, I would *now,* fain hope that the P——[66] has caught the true one; and, that good will come from the Mission, which is about to depart.

These are my wishes, and no one is more ardent in them; but I see nothing in the *present* aspect of European Affairs on which to build them. Nor no possible evil under the same circumstances, that could result from delay, in forwarding it.

But as the measure is resolved on, and progressing, it must be left to time, and a little will do it, to develope the consequences. I trust, as you do, that that Providence which has protected all our steps hitherto, will continue to direct them; to the consumation of our happiness and prosperity.

I have not a doubt of General LaFayettes being *now* on his passage to the United States. I have done every thing in my

On November 2 Washington wrote to Leven Powell a brief note, requesting "a cutting box upon a New Construction" be sent him. A photostat of the original of this letter, through the kindness of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, is in the *Washington Papers.*

[66] President Adams.

power to induce him to suspend this determination; by representing the delicate situation in which he would be placed here, and the embarrassment it might occasion. Mr. Murray has enforced my observations with all his might; in vain I believe.

He replies, Poor fellow! with too much truth I fear! that there is no asylem for him in Europe. That he is determined (without knowing himself, I conceive) to be perfectly neutral. That his wish is to possess a small farm where he can enjoy ease and quiet. Little believing, although he has been told, that he will be assailed by the opposition party in this Country, and that it is hardly possible for him to avoid taking *a side,* without being suspected by *both sides.* That if [he] joins the Government party, he must relinquish all hope, and expectation of countenance from his own Country, under its present form; and if he joins the opposition, he will of course he frowned upon by the Government under whose protection he is settling.

To all this he asks, what can I do? and from Mr. Murray's last letter to me (an answer to which I passed through your hands a few days ago) I have no doubt of his being now on his way to the United States. With the greatest esteem etc.[67]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, November 5, 1799.

Sir: At the earnest request of General Hamilton, that I would give instructions for having the eighth, ninth and tenth Regiments of Infantry provided with Winter Quarters, which it was very desireable should be at Harper's Ferry, I have departed from the resolution which I had formed, not to take charge of any military operations, unless the Army should be called into

[67] From a photostat of the original kindly presented by E. E. Prussing, of Hollywood, Calif.

the Field, so far as to order the best arrangements to be made that circumstances would permit, at this advanced season of the year, for quartering these Regiments. Knowing that no time could be lost, and that the distance of Genl. Hamilton from this part of the Country would occasion considerable delay in the necessary communications, and that the situation of Genl. Pinckney's family must prevent his personal attention to the business.

I therefore ordered Colo. Parker, of the eighth Regiment, to make the necessary arrangements for hutting these troops on the public ground at Harper's Ferry; but in the course of my communications with him on the subject, I found, that, without great exertion, it was probable that quarters would not be provided at that place for more than one Regiment. I therefore thought it proper, in addition to my further instructions to Colo. Parker, to send my Secretary Colo. Lear, up to Harper's Ferry, who would communicate to him my wishes more fully than could be done by writing, and who was directed to give to Colo. Parker all the assistance in his power that the business might be determined without delay. This has been done, and I now enclose you a Copy of the report[68] which my Secretary has made to me on his return; by which you will see the definitive arrangement which has been made, and which meets my approbation.

You will be so good as to communicate this Report to Genl. Hamilton or Genl. Pinckney, or both, that they may see what steps have been taken for quartering these Regiments, and make their arrangements accordingly.

I think that the ground mentioned in this Report will be very useful to the United States, and is certainly valuable for the

[68] The original is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Nov. 4, 1799.

timber and fuel; and if more can be had, on the same terms, I am of opinion that it ought to be purchased for the public, as the works now preparing, as well as those which may be hereafter established at Harper's Ferry, will make it an important place to the U. S. and an extension of their ground will be desireable on many Accounts. You will be pleased to observe, however, that the present purchase of 150 Acres, is not in fee, it is but the purchase of a lease, which has upwards of fifty years to run, at an annual rent of twenty dollars per hundred Acres. There can be little doubt, however, but that the fee may be obtained on reasonable terms. At any rate you will be pleased to have the present bargain confirmed and provision ordered for the payment of the money. With due consideration etc.[69]

To THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF THE LAND OFFICE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Fairfax County near Difficult Bridge,
November 7, 1799.

Sir: I came from Mount Vernon to this place in order to run out some land which I hold in this County, near this place.

In doing which, I have discovered or think I have discovered, some vacant land between my lines, the lines of the late Thomas Lord Fairfax, and those commonly called Tarkeriches; now in the occupation of others, to whom they were sold by his agent.

Having been but little in this State since the Revolution, I am unacquainted with the legal steps necessary and proper to be taken, to make an entry thereof; which must be my excuse if the present application to you is wrong, or informal.

[69] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

If it be proper, I pray you to make such entry as the case requires, and the cost, as soon as it is made known to me, shall be immediately paid by Sir Your etc.

P. S. I do not conceive that the waste land herein described (if there be any) can exceed a hundred acres.[70]

*To THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF THE LAND OFFICE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Difficult Bridge Wylies Tavernon, November 8, 1799.

Sir: Since writing the enclosed, I have discovered that a Mr. Willaim Shepherd who was with me on the Survey, and who has acted a very disingenuous part upon the occasion, either has made, or pretends to have made, an Entry of the Vacancy (if there be such) which I have therein requested you to enter on my behalf, of land always reputed, and believed by the Neighbours, to be mine.

I therefore request to be informed, if the first is the case, whether he has complied with all the formalities of the Law? for as much as I am resolved, to contest every point with him that justice and propriety will warrant.

Of course, I request the Entry may be made agreeably to the description with which I have furnished you; adding (altho' I do not know that it is essential) the lines now, or lately, of the Revd. Mr. Fairfax's tract, called Towlston Grange. With respect I am etc.

P. S. The Entry of Willm. Shepherd, as he gives out, was made a year or two ago. If so, has he complied with the *subsequent* requisites?[71]

[70] From a typed copy of the original (said to be in the office of the Governor of Virginia) through the kindness of Gov. John Pollard.

[71] From a photostat of the original kindly given by Miss Eleanor Bruno, of Ridley Park, Pa.

To GOVERNOR BENJAMIN OGLE

Mount Vernon, November 11, 1799.

Sir: On my return home yesterday, after an absence of a few days, I had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 2d Instant, and am much obliged by your polite attention to my request respecting the Barracks at Frederick Town. But as they were found, upon Colo. Parker's inspecting them, to be so much out of repair as not to admit of their being put in order for the reception of Troops in due season, measures have been taken to provide other quarters. With great Respect, etc.[72]

[MD. H. S.]

*To JOHN GILL

Mount Vernon, November 12, 1799.

Sir: I am just returned from Difficult-Run, whither I went to examine your land, and to see how it was situated in connexion with mine, to ascertain the quantity in the part you had offered to me, Its quality, &ca.

When you proposed to reserve all that part of lot No. 10 which lyes on the East side of Difficult run, I presume you were unacquainted with three circumstances attending it; 1st, that you would leave only 85 acres on the West side of the said run; 2dly, that you would take all the woodland (except a very narrow slipe or two); and 3dly, all the land of any value. For the land on the West side is not only extremely hilly and broken, but much worn and gullied. The (uninhabited) house thereon, is tumbling down; the Fence around the field is in ruins; and not a sufficiency of timber to repair it. And no part of the land within less than 80 rod of mine.

[72] In the writing of Tobias Lear.

This account you may rely on as fact; for I not only examined the premises with attention, but measured with accuracy (carrying a surveyor with me), the part of lot No. 10 which lyes on the upper, or West side of the Run. In doing which I was accompanied by Mr. Wherry (your Tenant), Mr. Thomas Gunnel, and Captn. Wiley; who were with me the whole time, and shewed the lines and corners, which were to be found. The meanders of Difficult run from my upper corner thereon to the place where the line of lot No. 10 crosses it, were also traversed to shew, with precision, the situation of the two tracts; a sketch of which is enclosed. Taken from the Survey of the lands thereabouts, which you sent me, (belonging to Mr. Swift), in order to give you a more distinct and perfect view of the subject than it is supposed you had obtained from a superficial view of it, before.

From this relation, which upon enquiry you will find literally correct, you must perceive, that that part of lot No 10 *alone,* which lyes on the upper, or West side of Difficult can not answer my purpose, nor would be an equivolant. And you must be further convinced, that from the scarcity of money, and fall in the price of land, indeed in property of all kinds, it is not for my interest to cancel the bargain which is in existence between us. Yet, as you seem to wish it, and I am not desirous of enforcing a contract (although I missed a favourable sale by making it) that would be injurious to you; I will, if it is not convenient to you to pay money for the Rents due thereon, (which would be most acceptable to me) agree to take the *whole* of lot No 10, to release the bargain for my land; or, as it is agreed on all hands, that Difficult run is mirey, inconvenient and troublesome to cross at *most* seasons of the year, and in winter *generally impassible,* except at the bridge, I am willing to receive

(altho' stripped of its wood, and part of it much worn) the slipe on the upper side, which you bought from Doctr. Dick, in lieu of that part of No. 10 which is on the lower side of the Run, and about the same quantity; the former comes to the upper corner of my land on the run, by a narrow gore, as may be seen by the sketch enclosed, but with the addition of the grd. included by the red line, in the Plat (if hereafter it could be obtained) would connect the whole tolerably well together, and all on one side of the run; which, from my own view, and the opinion of those who were with me, would be advantageous to both interests.

You now have the matter fully before you, and your answer as soon as convenient, would be acceptable to Sir, Your etc.

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, November 13, 1799.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the enclosed Invoice and Bill of Lading, that two Pipes of old Madeira Wine, and two Boxes of Citron have been Shipped by Charles Alder and Co. for my use, on Board the Ship Lavinia, James Cook Masr, bound for Philadelphia.

As the *original* letter, enclosing these papers, has been received (via Philadelphia) It is presumed that the Wine is safe

On November 12 Washington appears to have written a brief acknowledgment to Jonathan Swift, George Deneale, William Newton, Robert Young, Charles Alexander, jr., and James H. Hooe, managers of the Alexandria Dancing Assembly: "Mrs. Washington and myself have been honoured with your polite invitation to the assemblies in Alexandria, this Winter; and thank you for this mark of your attention. But alas! our dancing days are no, more; we wish, however, all those who relish for so agreeable, and innocent an amusement, all the pleasure the season will afford them." This is printed by Paul Leicester Ford in his *True George Washington*. The text was also sent in by Thomas M. Applegarth, of Cambridge, Md., and a facsimile of a contemporary copy is in the "Washington Photostats" in the Library of Congress. The original is said to be in Masonic Lodge, Alexandria, Va.

in that Port. I have to request the favour of you, therefore, to receive these things; Pay the freight and Duty; and to forward them by a *safe* conveyance to me. The amount of cost shall be paid as soon as you shall advise me of it.

At the sametime that you send the Wine, forward, I pray you, one hundred, or an hundred and fifty pounds of best Moco Coffee; A small chest of the finest Tea, say about 25 lbs, and two boxes of Spirma cite candles.

Let me know at what price Clover seed Sells; and whether *good* Lucern seed can be had? Neither this kind of Seed, the white Clover, or Blue grass seeds with which you furnished me this Spring, was worth the freight; little or none of it came up. Add if you please, the present prices of Wheat and Flour; and continue to mention them in your letters thereafter.

In September last, I enclosed Mr. Joseph Anthony a check on the Bank of Pennsylvania for $56 in discharge of my subscription for Mr. John Trumbulls Prints; and requested, when he received the money, to send me a receipt therefor; since which havg. heard nothing from him, I take the liberty of putting the enclosed letter for Mr. Anthony,[73] under cover to you, that I may learn what has become of the former, and the Check. With very great esteem etc. [H.S.P.]

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS PARKER

Mount Vernon, November 16, 1799.

Sir: By Colo. Lear I am informed that you have a journey to the Western Country in contemplation.

In consequence, and on the presumption that you will accomplish your intention, I take the liberty of requesting (if you go

[73] See footnote to Washington's letter to Joseph Anthony, Sept. 30, 1799, *ante*.

by the way of Pittsburgh, especially) that you would do me the favour of making the following enquiries, and reporting the result on your return.

First, what is the supposed value (by the Acre) of three tracts of Land which I hold on the Ohio River (East side) between the mouths of the two Kanhawas; the upper part of wch. containing 2314 acres, is the first large bottom below the little Kanhawa, running upwards of five miles on the River; the second, containing 2448 acres is about sixteen or eighteen miles lower down the River; and is bounded more than three miles by the River; the 3d. tract measuring 4395 acres, is still lower down (four or 5 miles, opposite to the Great Bend in the Ohio) and all of them said to be of the first quality. What I mean by the value thereof is, what they probably would sell for, one third of the purchase money paid down, and the other two thirds in annual Instalments, with Interest.

Let me further request the favour of you to make precisely the same enquiry with respect to three tracts of Land which I hold in the Northwestern Territory on the Little Miami River; [illegible] about a Mile of the Ohio River, containing 839 acres, another about Seven miles up the former of 977 Acres; and the third about 10 miles up the same, measuring 1235 acres.

I pray you to enquire whether the lands on the other side the Ohio are taxed, and under what predicament mine are; And if any of the tracts hereinmentioned (on either side of the River) have settlers on them; what kind; and what sort of Improvements with the number of them.

If you should pass by the Great Kanhawa, let me repeat my request with respect to my lands thereon also. I wish you a pleasant tour, and safe return, being with esteem etc.

[N. Y. P. L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Private)

Mount Vernon, November 17, 1799.

My dear Sir: Your confidential and interesting letter of the 10th. instant,[74] came duly, and safely to hand. With the contents of which I have been stricken dumb; and I believe it is better that I should remain mute than express any sentiment on the important matters which are related therein.

I have, for sometime past, viewed the political concerns of the United States with an anxious, and painful eye. They appear to me, to be moving by hasty strides to some awful crisis; but in what they will result, that Being, who sees, foresees, and directs all things, alone can tell. The Vessel is afloat, or very nearly so, and considering myself as a Passenger only, I shall

[74] McHenry had written: "The great and important successes of the Allies, engaged against France, the changes in the Directory, and the rapidity with which every matter and thing in France seemed hurrying to a restoration of monarchy, indicated to the heads of departments, the propriety of a suspension of the mission [to France]. We accordingly, while he was at Quincy, presented the idea to the President, as a subject for his consideration. Without taking any notice of the subject of this letter, a few days succeeding his arrival at Trenton, he convened us, to conclude upon the instructions, and shortly after gave his final orders for the departure of the Commissioners. . . . The President believes, and with reason, that three of the heads of departments have viewed the mission as impolitic and unwise. . . . I find that he is particularly displeased with Mr. Pickering and Mr. Wolcott, thinking they have encouraged opposition to it, to the Eastward; seemingly a little less so with me; and not at all with Mr. Stoddert and the attorney General. . . . Whether he will think it expedient to dismiss any, or how many of us, is a problem. I believe the Attorney General and Secretary of the Navy are of opinion he ought, and would perhaps, if asked, advise to the dismission at least of one. There are however powerful personal reasons, especially at this juncture, which forbid it, and it is more than possible, as these chiefly respect the Eastern quarter of the union, they will prevail. But in my view of the subject the evil does not lay in a change of Secretaries . . . as these may be replaced with good and able men, but in the mission, which as far as my information extends, is become an apple of discord to the federalists, that may operate upon the ensuing election of President as to put in jeopardy, the fruits of all their past labours, by consigning to men, devoted to French innovations and demoralizing principles, the reins of government. It is this dreaded consequence which afflicts, and calls for all the wisdom of the federalists." McHenry's letter is in the *Washington Papers.*

trust to the Mariners whose duty it is to watch, to steer it into a safe Port.

The charge of British influence, in the appointment of Major Pinckney,[75] to be Minister at the Court of London, is a perfect enigma; my curiosity leads me to enquire on what ground it is built, and you would oblige in giving me an explanation. Was it the measure, or the Man, that gave rise to this insinuation? the first it cannot be; because an exchange of Ministers had long been invited; sought after; and the tardiness of G. Britain in not meeting the advances of the U. States in this respect, was considered, and complained of, as an Indignity. Could it be the Man? Could *he,* who had fought against that Country; had bled in defence of his own, in the conflict; of acknowledged abilities, and irreproachable character, be suspected of undue influence? if neither, I ask again, on what is the accusation founded? The whole, is a mistery to me! And *merely* to satisfy my curiosity, I wish to have it unriddled; and not, from the present view wch. I have of the subject, because I shall think myself bd. to answer any interrogatories which may be dictated by insiduous impertinence. With the greatest esteem etc.

*To THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mount Vernon, November 18, 1799.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 13th instt. and its enclosure, did not reach my hands until Saturday morning.

Enclosed you will find a check on the Bank of Columbia for my dividend on Stock, in that Bank, for the last half year.[76] Not

[75] Thomas Pinckney.

[76] A photostat of the original of this check is in the "Washington Photostats" in the Library of Congress, the gift of E. F. Bonaventure, of New York.

knowing precisely, what per centage it drew, I am uncertain whether it will exceed, or fall short of your demand on me for the 2d. Instalment on lot No. 16, in the City. If the latter, please to inform me of the deficiency, and the amount shall be transmitted in Bank Notes. With great esteem etc. [H.S.P.]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, November 18, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 13th. inst: came duly to hand. I am now making arrangements at the Bank of Alexandria for obtaining money. When this is accomplished, I will forward a check on that Bank for the $1000 required by Mr. Blagden; and hope it will be in time to answer his purposes.

I have no objection to Mr. Blagden's frequent calls for money; but I fear the work which is not enumerated in the Contract with him, is pretty smartly whipped up in the price of it. I had no expectation (for instance) that a Well little more than 30 feet deep, was to cost me upwards of £70. I may, however, have misconceived the matter from ignorance of the usual rates. With great esteem etc.[77]

*To RALPH WORMELEY

Mount Vernon, November 18, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 3d Instant came duly to hand. Whence the Report of my visiting Norfolk could have arisen, I know not. From any intention of mine it did not, for nothing was ever more, foreign from them. I have never been farther from home since I left the Chair of Government, than the Federal City except when I was called to Philadelphia by

[77] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

the Secretary of War; and that distance, I am persuaded will circumscribe my Walks; unless, which heaven avert! I should be obliged to resume a military career.

I am not less obliged to you, however, my good Sir, for your polite invitation to Rosegill; and if events (at present unforeseen) should ever call me into those parts, I certainly shall avail myself of it. Mrs. Washington feels obliged by your kind remembrance of her; and unites with me in best respects to yourself and Lady. I am etc.

*To CHARLES LITTLE

Mount Vernon, November 20, 1799.

Dear Sir: The week before the last, I went up to Difficult Run to Survey a small tract of land which I hold thereon, at the Bridge; and to view a lot (No 10) which Mr. Jno. Gill, late of Alexandria, purchased as part of the land formerly belonging to the Earl of Tankerville, and which he (Gill) had offered to me in discharge of a demand I had upon him.

I was plagued, and indeed unable to find, either the Corner trees or lines of my tract. The upper corner on Difficult was entirely gone; a place was designated by Mr Thos. Gunnell, near to which, he thought it had stood. The *only* corner which seemed to be well established, was at the end of the first course from the run above, a large white Oak, by the spring, marked IC near Stone's house. From hence I run the course of my tract which is also a line of Tankerville's, until I came to the Bridge branch (sometimes called Colvills branch) but could find neither line tree nor corner at the end thereof, on the branch; and was informed by Captn. Wiley, Mr. Wherry, Mr. Yates, and others who accompanied me, and by some whom it was said had been with you, when Tankerville's land was run

out, that I was too low down the Branch; for that you struck it at the lower end of a small meadow thereon.

From this place until I came to Difficult run again, I could discover neither line tree nor corner, and the only person with me (William Shepherd) who had it in his power to give correct information had views quite incompatible therewith; and to mislead and deceive, were the *sole* objects of his attendance: for when, in running the course from the Bridge branch, it was found that I was crossing the Road lower down than all present expected; and it was declared as the invariable belief of the neighbours, that Tankerville's line and mine on this course were the same, and had always been so considered, he said No! adding, that part of a tract of 12,000 Acres belonging to the late Thos. Lord Fairfax had a narrow gore running up between them; and when it was observed that this could not well be, and that, if Tankerville's line *here,* and mine were not the same, that the land between must be vacant, and in that case that I shd enter it as waste; it eked out, by degrees, that he had been prying into these lines, and either had, or meant to secure this vacancy (if it be one) to himself; and that, to deceive until it could be accomplished, was all he was aiming at.

I have been thus particular in my statement of this matter to you, my good Sir, because I am about to ask, if you have any recollection, or knowledge, of these lines, or the circumstances attending them, that you would be so obliging as to furnish me therewith, particularly, as it may respect the corner *on,* or *near,* the Bridge branch; and the course from thence; and whether the understanding at the time you Survey Tankerville's was, or was not, that mine joined it on the courses just mentioned. In short, if you have the Survey of Tankerville's land by you and see no impropriety in the measure, I would thank you for letting Mr. Rawlins have a copy thereof; in aid

of any other information you may be so good as to give; as I dislike very much the disingenuous conduct and concealment of Mr. Shepherd in this business; and, as far as Justice in it will support me shall endeavour to defeat his views. With esteem etc.

*To WILLIAM PRICE[78]

Mount Vernon, November 20, 1799.

Sir: Your favour of the 15th instant, in answer to my letters of the 7th and 8th, addressed to the Surveyor General of the Land Office (wch. proves the necessity there was for my plea of ignorance) came duly to hand; with the Land Office Treasury Warrants; for your obliging attention to which, I pray you to accept my thanks.

Perceiving by your letter that Willm Shepherd has made a Survey, and returned it to your Office, similar in *some respects* to my proposed Entry; and believing that it must have been done unknowing to those who have lands adjoining, and comprehends Lands always reputed to be mine; and so understood by all the neighbourhood thereabts; I request the favour of you to furnish me with a copy of the Survey and Plat, that I may be enabled thereby to investigate the matter more fully. Until which, I must beg that this letter may be considered as a Caveat against a Grant thereof to Wm. Shepherd.

If the rules and Proceedings in your Office require a more formal protest against such issue, I must rely on your goodness to advise me; for having had very little to do with the local Laws of the State since the Revolution, and not having those passed since that period by me, I may be mistaken in this, as in my former application.

[78] Registrar of the Virginia Land Office.

Enclosed is a five dollar Bill; if it be insufficient to cover the Expence of the Land Warrant, Copy of the Shepherd's Survey, and the Protest against a Grant issuing thereon, you will please to advise.

As another proof of my unacquaintedness in this business, my expectation was, that the Entry I proposed to make would have covered all the land within the described location; but the Warrant fixed it, I perceive, to 100 acres *only*. It may be more, or it may be less; and cannot be ascertained until the Survey is made. I should not like to be fixed to the above quantity, if the vacant land exceeds it. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To SAMUEL SOMMERS

Mount Vernon, November 20, 1799.

Sir: In consequence of your letter, and the information of Mr. Rawlins, I sent to Richmond and obtained the enclosed warrant; with which (in the absence of Colo. Payne) I pray you to do what will be necessary to give it legal and proper effect and advise me thereof by a line lodged in the Post Office as the most certain mode of getting it to hand.

You will perceive that the Warrant is for 100 Acres *only*, this has proceeded from my mistake in saying, I *believed* the vacancy would not exceed this quantity; but my intention in the Entry was to cover *all* the waste land within the limits I had described, be it more or less, and if the location cannot comprehend this I shall be disappointed and ask your advice and assistance to correct it.

It appears from the Registers letter, which accompanied the Warrant that Mr. William Shepherd has made, and returned a Survey to that Office which bears some similitude to my Entry, I would ask the favour of you, therefore to examine the Surveyors Books to see at what time it was made and whether, in your

judgment it is the identical Land I have been aiming to obtain. Mr. Shepherds conduct while I was employed in Surveying my land on Difficult was so full of concealment and deception that I have not, nor shall not place any confidence in any thing he may say respecting the premises. For if he has made a Survey of this vacancy it was done unknowingly to the neighbourhood thereabouts; who, one and all (whom I saw) expressed a belief that Tankervilles Line and mine, between which the vacancy is *now* supposed to lye, were the same, and was so understood by them all, and Mr. Jno. Moss who formerly lived on Tankerville's land, and whom I have lately seen declares the same. With esteem I am etc.

P. S. I have written to Colo. [Payne] also for informatn on this subject. but request no delay on that account. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, November 20, 1799.

Dear Sir: When I wrote to you the other day, I expected to have settled matters with the Bk of Alexandria so as to have been enabled to have sent you, for Mr Blagdens use, a check thereon for $1000. But not being well enough acquainted with the rules of the Bank, I suffered what are called discount days, to pass over before I applied; for which reason the business *there* must remain over until after Tuesday of next week.

But, if to do this will be attended with any inconvenience to Mr Blagden, and he will be at the trouble of riding, or sending any person down here, competent to receive the money, Mr Lewis, who has it by him, will lend me that sum, and it shall be paid. Of this I would thank you for informing Mr Blagden. With esteem etc.[79]

[79] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

*To BENJAMIN GOODHUE

Mount Vernon, November 22, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 3d. of Octr. never came to my hands until last night. On hearing that Captn. Hammond had arrived at Alexandria, I shall send up for the Fish and send him the cost of them, nine dollars.

For your kind recollection of my wanting of this article, I thank you. They came very opportunely, and just as I was thinking of writing to you for a fresh supply.

Without expressing any opinion with respect to the Embassy which Sailed from this Country; I will hope for the best: Being among those who believes that *Providence* after its numberless favours toward us, will still continue an outstretched arm to help, and deliver us from the evils with which we have been, and continue to be, assailed.

With very great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To HEPBURN & DUNDAS

Mount Vernon, November 23, 1799.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 19th. was recd. yesterday. If my attendance at Mr. Heiskill's in Alexandria on the 26th. could render you any *real* Service, I would do it with pleasure.

But all that I could relate would be *hearsay* whilst means exist, to obtain (I presume) positive proofs of the facts you wish to establish.

With respect to the division of the tract, of (what you call) 51,302 acres, I am as ignorant as any man whom you might pick up, *by chance* in the Streets of Alexandria.

I believe, Mr. Jno. West, deceased, was one of the Patentees in the large Survey at the Mo. of the Great Kanhawa; but to

this fact I would give no positive evidence: for after being at the *whole* trouble, and the *greater* part of the expence to obtain a recognition of the original grant of 200,000 Acres; and being *compelled,* very improperly I did think, and always have thought, to take it in twenty Surveys, the Governor and Council found themselves, by this act (which was protested against) under the necessity of jumbling a number of names into the same Patent, in order to give each claimant, according to his grade, and the rates they had alloted him, the qty. allowed, whereas, if the priviledge of locating that quantity, within the District which they had assigned for this purpose had been given to each Claimant, it would have prevented all the difficulties, and perplexities which have ensued; to the inconvenience of all, and entire loss of the Land, to some.

But thus the matter was ordered, by that body; after which, and the issuing of the Patents consequent thereof, my Agency ceased; and I have concerned myself with no other part of the Land than was assigned me, and such as I purchased thereafter of others.

With respect to the division of the tract you alluded to, so far am I from knowing that it was made *according to law,* that I do not know it was ever made; and as to the issue of Mr. Jno. West, I am entirely unacquainted, otherwise than by report; never having been in his house, that I recollect, more than once, and that 30 years ago; and 25 of which but little in this State. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, November 24, 1799.

Dear Sir: A considerable time ago, in consequence of some applications from officers of Cavalry, to know in what manner

they were to draw pay I wrote to the Secretary of War on the Subject; and received for answer, that as no Paymaster was appointed to that Corps, they were to draw on the Paymaster General.

Mr. Custis (cornet in the Light Dragoons) being one of those alluded to, above, drew an order, as he informs me on the Paymaster General in your favour; but is yet without the money (of which he is a good deal in want). I pray you therefore to inform him, or me, wherein lays the difficulty of obtaining it from the Paymaster General, that I may apprise the Secretary of War thereof.

When you inform me of the prices of those seeds which were ennumerated in my last, please to add to them that of Timothy seed also, by the Bushel. With much esteem and regard, I am etc. At what price could *good* German Oznabrigs be bought, taking eight hundred, or one thousand Ells?

PS. If you could send me samples of some of the best German Oznabrgs. with the prices marked thereon, by the Ell, it would enable me to decide, whether to purchase in Philadelphia or Alexandria. I may, probably, require a thousand Ells.

In some of the late Philadelphia Gazettes I have seen Advertised a number of Passengers from Hamburgh, who are to make their own contracts. Among these it is said there are Clerks in different Languages. If one could be had, who was competent in English; who is master of a fair hand in English character; and who has testimonials as to his sobriety, morals and general good character; such in short as would satisfy you, were you in want of such a Person; I should be glad to contract with him on as long terms as could be obtained, having a great deal of copying to do. And if a complete Country blacksmith; one who knows how to make Ploughs, and all other impliments for a farm would be acceptable also. [H.S.P.]

*To JUDGE ALEXANDER ADDISON

Mount Vernon, November 24, 1799.

Sir: Your favour of the 8th. instant came duly to hand. Whatever is found to be contents of the Land I sold to the deceased Colo. Ritchie, by full and actual measurement I shall abide by.

I have not heard a tittle from Mrs. Ritchie nor her brother in law on the subject of the Instalment, due me, and with pain I add, that if payment of what is due thereon is not immediately made, my own want of money *must* compel me to put the Bond in Suit. The object I had in selling that, and other lands, is entirely defeated by non-payment of the purchase money, agreeably to contract, and the consequence, a necessity of borrowing from the Banks at a ruinous interest; a measure I never, in the course of my life, have practised until within the present, and last year.

The result of your late Election was painful to hear. With esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, November 24, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 5th. instant came to hand in due course, and the manner in which you proposed to dispose of my letter to Mr. Murray, was perfectly agreeable to me.

Knowing nothing of the writer of the enclosed letter, and unwilling to be hasty in encouraging proposals of this sort, without some information of the characters who are engaged in the Work; I take the liberty of enquiring, through you, who Mr. William W. Woodward is, and if you approve of his plan.

In this case, be so good as to forward my letter to him; also enclosed; as directed; if not, I pray you to return it, along with his letter to me. With Doctr. Witherspoon I was acquainted,

and have no objection to subscribing to his Works if the publication of them is by a proper hand, and on proper principles. With great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM W. WOODWARD

Mount Vernon, November 24, 1799.

Sir: I have been favoured with your letter of the 19th. Instant.

Being well acquainted with Doctr Witherspoon, whilst living, and knowing to his abilities; I shall, with pleasure as far as becoming a subscriber to his Works may contribute, promote the success of their Publication: and I do authorise you accordingly, to add my name to the subscription Paper which appears to be in existance. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To REVEREND BRYAN, LORD FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, November 26, 1799.

My Lord: In the early part of this month, I went up to Difficult-run to examine with more accuracy than I had ever done before, the small tract of Land you were so obliging (many years ago) to accomodate me with, for a Stage for my Waggons whilst I had plantations in Berkeley County; to see if it would *now* (having many years since removed my people from those Lands) answer for a small Farm; those around me being overstocked with labourers.

I was unable, with the assistance of several of the Neighbours thereabouts, to survey the lines, or more than one corner of the tract. There was also a corner to the Land lately belonging to the Earl of Tankerville, and at the end of the first course after leaving the run (where it was supposed the upper corner tree thereon formerly stood). From this, *well known corner* neither line tree nor corner tree could be found; the next, called

for by the Deed, was a white oak on the bridge branch. In running the course of the Deed from thence, it crossed the main (Leesburgh) road much lower, than those present, conceived it ought to have done; the concurrent opinion being, that this course and Tankerville's were the same; and it was well known to them *all* that the latter crossed the Road higher up.

The person present, who had it most in his power to give correct information, attended for other purposes than to be useful to me; for when he found my line and Tankervilles did not accord, agreeably to the received opinion, he (William Shepherd) attempted to impress a belief that a very narrow-pointed gore, of a tract of 12,000 and odd acres, belonging to the late Thos. Lord Fairfax, run in between; and when it was observed that this was as improbable, as unheard of, by any of them before, it eked out by degrees, that his object was to deceive, until he could enter the gore as vacant land for himself.

I have troubled you with these details by way of an apology for the liberty I am about to take (if you see no impropriety in granting it) of asking, having heard that the above mentioned tract of twelve thousand and odd acres was a bequest to you, or your sons, by the late Thomas Lord Fairfax, for the courses, or so many thereof, together with such of your Towlston tract, on Difficult run, below and dividing the seperate survey of 275 acres made for one Norris, as will enable me, not only to discover my own lines, but whether there is any vacancy between them and the Lands adjoining. To accomplish this, it will not escape your penetration, that there must be some corner; or line, of one or both of the tracts I have enumerated, and mine the same; otherwise the three plats (or so much of them as is essential to my purpose) could not be connected together so as to elucidate the point in question.

Having had abundant proof of your readiness to oblige me on all occasions, I will add nothing further in excuse for asking

this favour. As it is very probable Mr. Ferdn. Fairfax will make you a visit shortly I will be glad to be informed of his arrival, being informed that the land adjoining me, above (Ld. Tankerville's) is now in his possession. Sincerely wishing you a return of good health. I am with very great esteem etc.

*To JOHN GILL

Mount Vernon, November 26, 1799.

Sir: Under cover with this, you are furnished with the Invoice of such goods as I require.

As it was not so much in my power to fix the *prices,* as to designate the *quality* of the Goods, the amount of the cost of them may exceed, or fall short, of the sum due from you to me. If the first, the balance shall be paid by me, if the latter, I shall look to you for the deficiency.

I have drawn up, and signed before evidences, a memoranda of the agreement we entered into the day you were at this place, according to my conception of it. I have not, intentionally, departed either from the spirit or letter of it; and if it meets your approbation, the counterpart may be signed by you, before witnesses, and returned to me; together with the Deed from Mr. Herbert to you; and against your arrival in Alexandria I will have a conveyance of that part of lot No 10 which lays on the upper side of Difficult run, ready for your Signature.

It is not *always* an easy matter to make interested men, at a distance, (when they are deprived of opportunities of seeing, and judging for themselves believe that, there can be perfect candour used in a transaction, or relation of facts by the other party, when they are differently circumstanced [mutilated] nothing more certain than that, the Woodland part of No 10 which is on the lower side of Difficult run, would be infinitely

more valuable to the propriator of the land adjoining it, *on that side,* than that part of Lewis's tract which lays on the upper side; seperated therefrom by a deep and Mirey run which can only be passed in places and not at those in all seasons. For the same reason, the last mentioned slipe would be advantageous to me, although entirely stripped of wood and much exhausted. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*INVOICE OF GOODS TO BE SENT FOR BY MR. JOHN GILL, OF BALTIMORE, FOR AND ON ACCOUNT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, OF MOUNT VERNON IN VIRGINIA, ACCORDING TO AGREEMENT

Mount Vernon, November 26, 1799.

6 pair of the largest, finest, and best Bed Blankets.
6 pieces of the largest, thickest and best striped Blanketing for negros. these pieces generally contain 15 or 16 blankets each.
6 pieces of Ditto 2d sort, somewhat smaller.
7. ps. of light coloured broadcloath (not quite white) for my servants liveries; to cost about 7/6 sterg. pr. yard.
1 ps. of Scarlet for ditto to cost abt 8/6 pr. yard
Twist, silk and thread proportioned to Ditto
2 dble gross of white mettal buttons best kind
180 yards (or thereabouts, according to the number of yards in a piece) of blue thick set, or Dufd. for negros cloathing
200 yards, or thereabouts, of green do. for do. of a quality somewhat cheaper.
6 dble gross of the cheapest kind of white mettal Buttons.[80]

[80] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Judge E. A. Armstrong, of Princeton, N. J.

On November 26 Washington wrote briefly to William Thornton, inclosing a post note and check, amounting in all to $1,000 for Mr. Blagdin. He requested to know the number and sizes of the rooms in his city houses; "frequent enquiries are made of me concerning them without my being able to satisfy the Enquiror." The press copy of this letter is in the New York Public Library.

*To SAMUEL SOMMERS

Mount Vernon, November 28, 1799.

Sir: Colo. Little forwarded your letter of the 25th instant to me, yesterday evening; and I have now to request (if it is not already done) that my Entry may be made in the County Surveyors Book of Record, and the Treasury Warrant deposited therewith.

Not having the Laws of the Commonwealth (since the Revolution) by me, I am entirely unacquainted with the regular mode of proceeding with respect to Entries; but should conceive that, no application by letter to the Surveyors Office for one, after my letter had been there (without any person authorized to receive it) and advised to be carried to you as Deputy Surveyor, *and there entered,* could defeat my right. Be this however, as it may, I am persuaded you acted from you best judgment; and the matter, if contested must rest upon a fair representation of facts. It would be proper that my letters to the Surveyor (opened by you) should be deposited along with the Treasury Warrant and Entry. Being, next to my open and candid declaration in the presence of Shepherd and all others after finding that Tankervilles course and mine did not accord, and it having always been considered as my land, that I would enter it, the origin of the business.

I should have proceeded 'ere this to the ascertainment of this vacancy (if there be any); but it is proper that the course of the adjoining Lands should be first obtained, and the Proprietors thereof notified of my intention to give it a fair appearance. If these can be accomplished, I shall, when the Weather will permit set about this Work with the County Surveyor or yourself. With esteem I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To CHARLES LITTLE

Mount Vernon, November 28, 1799.

Dear Sir: Mr. Johnston delivered me your favour of yesterday, and a map of the Land, formerly Lord Tankervilles; but as he came late in the afternoon, and said he was obliged to return that evening, I did not incline to detain him until I could examine, and get such information from the plat as was necessary for my purpose. I therefore dispatched him, and took the liberty of detaining the latter until this morning.

I am much obliged to you for sending it to me (and have paid Mr Johnston for bringing it). It shews clearly, that Tankervilles line and mine, from the Bridge, or Colville Branch are not the same. The question then is, whether the space between is vacant, or part of the late Thos. Lord Fairfaxs twelve thousand Acre tract. I have no doubt myself, as well from other circumstances, as from Shepherds conduct, of its being waste and ungranted; but until I can get the meets and bounds of the above tract of 12000 acres, and perhaps of the Towlston Land also this fact can not be ascertained with precision.

The present Lord Fairfax has promised me every aid in his power to elucidate this matter; but thinks some of the Papers necessary to effect it are in the possession of his son (he does not say which) whom he expects down between this and Christmas: but finding that Mr Shepherd, and some who abet him, are active in their endeavours to arrest my Entry, it has put me more upon my mettle than I should otherwise have been, and more perhaps than the land, if obtained, is worth.

For this reason, I mean to have the line of these several tracts, so far as they relate to me investigated with as little delay as can be avoided. If therefore, while you are in Berkeley, you

should by chance fall in with either Mr. Thos. or Mr Ferdinand Fairfax, it would add to the favours you have already confered on me in this business, by requesting whichsoever of them has the Papers in possession (if they see no impropriety in the measure) to furnish me with a copy of the courses of such Land as adjoin mine, it would save me the trouble and expence of sending to the Land Office in Richmond for Copies thereof. Having the boundaries of the several tracts around mine and their connection with each other before me I might be enabled to discover without going on the Land, whether there be any surveyors error or not; although a Survey would be sure to contain the amount of such [illegible] as to obtain a Grant therefor.

After having obtained this information, a Survey be necessary it is more than probable that I shall avail myself of your kind offer to attend it. With esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM PAYNE

Mount Vernon, November 28, 1799.

Sir: If this letter should find you at home, the intention of it is (through Mr. Rawlins the bearer) to enquire into the State of my Entry, of a supposed vacancy of land on Difficult run . . .[81] and always supposed . . . boundaries; and to be a . . . a Mr. Willm. Shepherd or others for him have taken in your Office to . . . the progress of my Entry and Warrant.

If you have seen the Register Mr. S. Sommers, since your return, you would from him, have received a perfect account of the whole . . . business. If you have not, Mr. Rawlins relation, who is acquainted therewith will save me the necessity of detailing them. I have done, and am ready to do, all that has been adjudged expedient and proper. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

[81] The press copy was poorly made. Words indicated by leaders [. . .] are illegible.

*To REVEREND BRYAN, LORD FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, November 30, 1799.

My Lord: I thank you for the courses of so much of your land on Difficult as had any relation to my small tract at the Bridge over that stream, and for the communications contained in your favour of the 20th Inst.

The Information derived from these sources, has satisfied me that the opinion of the Borderers on my land that extended to Tankervilles line and my own opinion (when I found the lands seperated at the Bridge Branch) that what lay between them was vacant, is erroneous; and I have of course, arrested all proceedings; in order to obtain it as waste land.

The smallness of my tract (275 Acs only, by Norriss's Survey) and the [illegible] of its timber, together with the clearing of the part thereof (where useless to me) by [illegible] rendered the gore which had been declared mine, of some importance to the tract altho' the land is hilly, broken, and the soil and wood thin, especially in the article of timber; so far as I could form an opinion by running the course of my Deed. Yet, even under these circumstances, such an addition might have enabled me to have cut down more of the 275 Acres. Which, small as it is, I am told is to have part taken away by an older Patent of Lewis's; which calls for a straight line from my corner at the *old ford* of Difficult, to my upper corner thereon; and which, will take away some of the best land in the bend of the run. The right to do this you perhaps, can judge better of than I who have no knowledge of the property thereabouts.

As you hold the land on the North and East of my tract, and (according to information) Mr Ferdo Fairfax possesses that wch. is on the South and W[est] nothing remains to be done but in the settled and temporate part of the ensuing Spring if health

will permit, for Your Lordship Mr. Fairfax and myself to repair to the scene, agree upon, and mark our lines of seperation to prevent encroachment on either side in future.

Mrs. Washington unites in best wishes for your restored health, and in respect to your Lady and family with etc.

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, December 1, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 30th. Ulto, endorsing Mr. Blagdens dimensions of the rooms in my houses in the City, came to my hands this morning; With a list of the different kinds of Fruit trees in the Frenchmans Garden; to whom I was a subscriber.

The terms on which the subscription was set on foot, have entirely escape me; my motive for subscribing, namely, to encourage a nursery of that sort, still rests on my memory.

If taking Trees from him, at this time, will go in payment of my *former* advance, I will receive them now to the full amount of my Subscription; (if there be danger it [*sic*] suffering them to remain longer with him): but, if they are otherwise to be paid for, in a word, by advancing cash, I shall decline taking any. A line from you, on this subject, will decide the matter.

If Mr. John G. Ladd will undertake to import *good and genuine* Plaister of Paris, on moderate terms, and will engage to have it delivered before the last of March, allowing time to prepare it for spreading in April, I would take from ten to twenty tons of it. But these matters ought to be *precisely* known, before any engagement is entered into with him.

Colo. Carrington of Richmond, who was here, and went from this yesterday, informed me that some Gentleman of that place, had imported a quantity from Nova Scotia; but as the

Farmers thereabouts had not been in the practice of using it, he found it an unsaleable article; and had requested *him* to enquire if it could be disposed of in these parts. His price, the Colo. believed, was $8 pr. Ton; what the freight from thence would be, neither he, nor I, knew; but this could easily be ascertained, and by comparing the *whole* cost delivered *here,* with Ladds terms, a choice might be made of that, which under all circumstances, might appear most eligable. From Richmond, there would be a certainty of getting it in time. and the quality, by some process, might be ascertained.

I thank you for the Boston Glass, furnished for my buildings in the City; which I will pay for whenever the price shall be made known to me.

The true Chinese Hogs I *lately* had; but they have got so mixed, that a boar pig is desirable; and I would thank you for securing one for me, of the genuine kind, if to be had.

I am glad to hear that the Legislature of Maryland have acted favourably on the Application made to it by the Potomack Company. Your information of this event is the first I had received. It is to be hoped that the Legislature of this State will "go, and do so likewise." Niether would be backward in promoting this useful undertaking if the measure was impartially investigated, and the welfare of the respective States duly considered. With very great esteem etc.[82]

*To JAMES PIERCY

Mount Vernon, December 1, 1799.

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 27th. Ulto. If you have no vessel passing *below this* (from whence the Sugar could be

[82] From a photostat of the original, the gift of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

landed with very little trouble or delay) I request that it may be deposited at Colo. Gilpin's, in Alexandria.

Let the cask in which it is packed, be well secured; the Sugars hitherto had from you, has, sometimes, fallen short in weight. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To WILLIAM PRICE

Mount Vernon, December 2, 1799.

Sir: I have been duly favoured with your letter of the 25th. Ulto, enclosing a copy of the Survey made for William Shepherd, for four and three quarter acres, and the form of a Caveate against the issuing a Patent therefor.

I cannot from the survey, discover with precision where this land lays, and therefore shall give no further opposition to the Grant of it. If it be, where I *suspect,* it is within the bounds of a Patent under which I hold, of more than sixty years standing; of course, cannot effect it.

I am sorry that I have given you so much trouble in this business, at the sametime that I feel obliged by the prompt and ready advice you have been so kind as to give me for the prosecution of it. From what I had heard of Shepherd's Survey, I conceived differently of its object. I am etc. [V.S.L.]

*To EDWARD CARRINGTON

Mount Vernon, December 2, 1799.

Dear Sir: Since you mentioned the Plaster of Paris which was for Sale in Richmond, (but after you left this) it occurred to me that as it was not a saleable article with you, it might be my cheapest mode to purchase *there* to supply my want of this article next year on my Farms around me.

Permit me, for this reason, to ask the favour of you to learn from the Gentleman who has it for Sale, what quantity he has?

the lowest price he would take for it by the ton (the whole being purchased)? there? and what, delivered at my landing? As a Merchant, acquainted with Navigation, he will be at no loss to know at what freight it could be delivered here.

A Gentleman now in Alexandria is endeavouring to obtain Subscribers for a Vessel load from Nova Scotia; the terms I have not learned; but if that in Richmond be *good,* and had as low, I should prefer it because it is already in the Country, and the risques of the Sea avoided.

All, however, depends upon its being of the *true sort,* for without this, it would be as useless for the purpose intended, as pebble stone. There are two colours of it, one has a greyish, the other a blewish cast; the latter I think is prefered; but both are good when perfectly free from grit, or sand; having any of the latter is a proof of its baseness. The best criterion for ascertaining its property, is, by putting the fine powder of the Plaster, into a skillet or Pot without moisture, the good will swell, or rise up; the bad will remain dead, and motionless.

I would thank you for sending me (if to be had) two glaized leather hats such as your Postilions wore, and of that size. accompany them with the cost, and the money shall be remitted in a bank note. I am in no immediate want of them; an occasional, or water transportation (directed to the care of Colo. Gilpin in Alexa.) will do.

I hope you got down safe. Our Compts. to Mrs. Carrington. I am always, etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

Mount Vernon, December 3, 1799.

Sir: I take the liberty of enclosing a letter from Colo. Parker to Mr. Lear, in which he requests that I will write to the proper

department, to have arrangements made for the payment of two thousand one hundred and seventy five dollars and one third, being the amount of the purchase of one hundred and ninety six acres of land, bot. for the United States, adjoining the public ground at Harper's Ferry.

You will be pleased to observe that the Money is to be paid on the 1st day of January next, and that Major Campbell, who made the purchase, has given his bond therefore; and I am persuaded there will be no delay in fulfiling the engagement which he has made for the United States. With due consideration etc.[83]

*To THOMAS PETER

Mount Vernon, December 3, 1799.

Dear Sir: Have you succeeded, or are you likely to succeed, in procuring the Hemp seed I required?

The fly has got into my Wheat, very generally this Fall; and I lay my account for great revages thereon next Spring; which makes me desirous of laying (to use a Sea term) an anchor to windward for something else.

I congratulate you and Patcy on the birth of a "Manchild." My best wishes attend the Mother and Child, and I am etc.[84]

*To ROBERT LEWIS

Mount Vernon, December 7, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 10th of Septr came duly to hand, but as there was nothing contained in it that required to be acted upon immediately, I postponed acknowledging the receipt of it at an earlier period.

[83] The draft is in the writing of Tobias Lear.

[84] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Walter G. Peter, of Washington, D. C.

The death of Mr. Airess, of which I have been informed, and the direct conveyance afforded by your brother Howells return, have induced me, to write you at this time.

What prospect the death of Mr. Airess may open to the attainment of the Farm which was leased for his, and life of Mrs. Airess, I know not; it may, however, be the subject of a round about enquiry of yours; for I must, if Mrs Washington and myself should both survive another year, find some place to which the supernumerary hands on *this* Estate could be removed. Being well convinced, that after that period, half the number employed on the Farms around me, would yield more nett profit, it behoves me therefore to make some change which may benefit myself and not render their condition worse.

For these reason, I request that you would keep a steady eye upon all my tenements in Berkeley and Frederick; and at a crisis you shall deem most favourable, learn with precision the most favourable terms on which I could repossess such *adjoining ones,* as would work eight or ten hands to advantage, regard being had at the sametime to the Improvements of different kinds, particularly, the quantity of cleared land, and the quality of it; and the number and sort of buildings; and for what purposes they wd answer.

There could be no doubt of the Utility, nor would there be any hesitation in attempting, to purchase leases at a Rent of Six pounds per annum, if you are founded in your hypothesis, of there letting for £60; provided I *had,* or could see how to *come at,* the means to pay for them: But, on monies owing to me, I would not engage to pay a shilling, for every pound that is promised to me; So little are engagements regarded, and so remiss are our Courts of Justice to enforce them.

Under these circumstances, and statement of facts, you will readily perceive that it would be hazardous in me to direct you

positively what decisive measures to take. But apprised as you are of my wishes, you may use preparatory means for carrying them into effect; without committing me, previously to the advice of them. The present state of things may change, and I may be differently circumstanced at the time you may learn, with precision what can be accomplished with the Tenants, in facilitation of my views.

You will perceive by the letter herewith enclosed, in what manner my land in Hampshire is treated. It is more than probably, if some effectual stop cannot be put to such depredations, that it will be stripped of all its valuable Timber.

I have a Jack younger than the lame one which you saw here, that will be full old enough to cover next spring. What number of Mares do you think, you could engage to come to him at your house next Season, and at what price? Your answer to these queries would enable me to decide on a stand for him, in time to advertise it.

You will have heard that Nelly Lewis has a girl born. She, Mrs. Washington and the family unite with me in best wishes for yourself, Mrs. Lewis and the Children, and I am etc.[85]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, December 7, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 5th. instant was received last night. Not sending up to the Post Office *every* day, is the cause of its not getting to hand in time for my answer by the Mail of this day.

Enclosed is a list of such fruit Trees as my Gardener has chosen. Be so good as to have them sent to the care of Colo. Gilpin in Alexandria, who will receive, take care of, and give me

[85] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

notice of their arrival: when my Boat, or Waggon shall be sent up for them. Mr. Leplet will, of course, label the different kinds of fruit.

I have written to Colo. Carrington to know the terms on which Plaster of Paris may be had in Richmond; and what the owner would ask for it delivered at my landing or higher up. With much esteem etc.[86]

*To WILLIAM THORNTON

Mount Vernon, December 8, 1799.

Dear Sir: For the communications contained in your letter of yesterday, I thank you. As a citizen of the United States, it gives me pleasure, at all times, to hear that works of public utility are resolved on, and in a state of progression; wheresoever adopted, and whensoever begun.

The one resolved on between the Chesapeake and Delaware is of great magnitude, and will be, I trust, the Precursor of another between the Delaware and sound, at Amboy. These, with the one now about, between the Chesapeak (for Norfolk) and Albermarle Sound, will, in a manner, open a kind of Inland Navigation (with what assuredly will be attempted in the Eastern States) from one extremety of the Union to the other. Never having read any of the late Acts of Congress relatively to the Federal City, or rather to the Public buildings, and property the Public is possessed of in that place; I know not on what grd. the Attorney General of the United States has founded the opinion communicated in your letter, of the insufficiency of the Presidents Powers to Authorize the Commissioners of the City to accept a loan, for the purpose of carrying on the public works, in that place. Under the original Act empowering the

[86] From the *Thornton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

President to establish the permanent Seat of the Government on the Potomac no doubt ever occurred to my mind, nor I believe to the Minds of any of the Officers thereof, around me, of a want of this Power. But, by the obstructions continually thrown in its way, by *friends* or *enemies,* this City has had to pass through a firey trial. Yet, I trust will, ultimately, escape the Ordeal with eclat. Instead of a *firey trial* it would have been more appropriate to have said, it has passed, or is on its passage through, the Ordeal of local interest, destructive Jealousies, and inveterate prejudices; as difficult, and as dangerous I conceive, as any of the other ordeals. With very great esteem etc.

[N.Y.P.L.]

*To ALEXANDER WHITE

Mount Vernon, December 8, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your favour of yesterday I received this morning. Altho' the Legislature of Maryland has taken up the business of the Potomack Company upon different ground, than on that which was adopted at the last General meeting of the Stockholders, and less advantageous for *them* if they could have carried *their* mode into effect; yet, as my primary wish, is to see the work completed, I rejoice that the means are likely to be obtained which will accomplish this desirable object, and trust that on its progress to this end, there will be no more lingering.

Percieving no object Mr. Liston could have in misrepresenting the expression of Mr. Stoddard, respecting a site near the Capital; the presumption is, all other considerations apart, that he was correct in the recital. But to the attempts of diverting the followers of the Government from engaging houses in the vicinity of the Capital, Mrs. Liston was more pointed, and full than He was. I trust, notwithstanding, that the event will prove that accomodations will be found equal to the demand for them;

and altho' (I believe it may be said with truth) that those whose interest it was, most to promote the welfare and growth of the City, have been its worst enemies, yet that matters will still go right.

I should, as yesterday or today (according to your first intentions), and at all other times when it is convenient to you, be glad to see you at this place. Being, Dear Sir, with great esteem etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To JOHN MASON

Mount Vernon, December 8, 1799.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 4th instant,[87] enclosing a Resolution of the Legislature of Maryland to take, on account of the State, One hundred and thirty shares in the augmented Capital of the Potomak Company, and thank you for your politeness in forwarding of it to me.

Altho' this mode of obtaining money to complete the Navigation of the River, differs from the plan adopted at the last General Meeting of the Stockholders, and will make the original shares less valuable than they would have been by the mode proposed (if it could have been carried into effect); yet, my primary wish being, to see a completion on almost any terms, I rejoice, sincerely, that the means are likely to be obtained, to effect so desirable an object; and I trust that every exertion will now be made to complete the work with all possible expedition. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To CLEMENT BIDDLE

Mount Vernon, December 8, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letters of the 23d Ulto and 1st. instant have both been received. the part which relates to Mr. Custis's pay as

[87] Mason's letter and a copy of the resolves of the Maryland Legislature are in the *Washington Papers*.

an Officer in the Cavalry, has been given to him, and he writes you himself on the subject. I have naught therefore to add on it.

Captn. Ellwood had not arrived at Alexandria yesterday, from hence I conclude he was to have touched at Norfolk; otherwise his passage will have been tedious. I have it in contemplation, but shall not decide positively on the measure until the arrival of that Vessel; to send you a hundred or two Barrels of flour; to dispose of for me, in the Philadelphia market, as it commands a better price there, than in Alexandria; and some barrels of Fish also, on Commission. If this does not take place, I have about $200 in the Bank of Pennsylvania for wch. I shall give you a check, to enable you to pay for the articles already sent me by Ellwood, and such as will be requested in this letter.

There can be no dependance on Imported Seeds, unless they are kept in the Steerage or Cabbin; and few Masters of Vessels will do this. In the Hold, the chance is, that the heat of it, will destroy vegetation; little of it ever turning out well. Under this impression, I shall decline taking more than a very small quantity of Mr. Reay [*sic*] Kings seeds; supposing them to be imported. But request, that you would send me by the first conveyance (for fear of Frost) Six bushels of Clover seed, *present year's growth; saved in the Country*. Get, if you please, in case you are not a good judge of seeds, some person who is so, to inspect, and see that it is not mixed with another seed, not much unlike it, which is an injurious introduction into fields.

I am particular always in my seeds, because nothing is more to be regretted in a course of rotation, than to sow seed that does not come up; or, that which is impure; the whole system being deranged by it. To the Clover seed, please to add, by way of trial, 5 lbs of Lucerne; and as I am unacquainted with Herdgrass, one pound of that seed also, for an experiment. With estm. etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

To JAMES KEITH

Mount Vernon, December 9, 1799.

Dear Sir: As it will be inconvenient for me to attend a Meeting of the Stock-holders of the Potomac Company on Tuesday next, agreeably to the request of the President and Directors; I have taken the liberty to enclose you my proxy to vote and act for me on that occasion, which you will oblige me by doing. With great esteem etc.[88]

*To ROBERT BOGGESS

Mount Vernon, December 10, 1799.

Sir: In answer to your letter of yesterday's date, I have to observe that you, as well as others, have mistaken my real situation very much when, it is supposed that I have it in my power to *lend* money.

The truth is, that my receipts of this article, for some years back, have fallen so far short of my expenditures, without having made any purchases to increase my property (excepting a lot or two in the Federal City) that I have been under the necessity of selling land, and borrowing money [illegible] to enable me to support, [illegible] those expenses. I am etc. [N.Y.P.L.]

*To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, December 10, 1799.

Mr. Anderson: From the various plans suggested by you, at different times, for Cropping the Farms which I propose to retain in my own hands, in the year 1800, and with a reduced

[88] From a typed copy kindly furnished by Leander McCormick-Goodhart, of Silver Spring, Md.

force of the labourers on them in succeeding years, together with the operations necessary to carry them into effect; and comparing these with the best reflections I am able to bestow on the subject: Considering moreover, the exhausted state of my arable fields, and how important it is to adopt some system by which the evil may be arrested, and the fields in some measure restored, by a rotation of Crops which will not press hard upon, while sufficient interval between them, is allowed for improvement: I have digested the following Instructions for my Manager (while it is necessary for me to employ one) and for the government of my Overseers; and request that they may be most *strictly,* and *pointedly* attended to and executed; as far however, as the measures therein required, will admit.

A System closely pursued (altho' it may not in all its parts be the *best* that could be devised) is attended with innumerable advantages. The Conductor of the bu[si]ness in this case can never be under any dilemma in his proceedings; The Overseers, and even the Negroes, know, what is to be done, and what they are capable of doing, in ordinary seasons; in short every thing would move like *clock work;* and the force to be employed, may be in due proportion to the Work which is to be performed; and a reasonable and tolerably accurate estimate may be made of the produce. But when no plan is fixed, when directions flow from day to day, the business becomes a mere chaos: frequently shifting, and sometimes at a stand, for want of directions what to do, or the manner of doing it. These occasion a waste of time, which is of more importance than is generally imagined.

Nothing can so effectually obviate the evil, as an established, and regular course of proceeding; made known to *all* who are actors in it; that *all may,* thereby, be enabled to play their parts, to advantage.

This would give ease to the principal Conductor of the business; It would be more satisfactory to the persons who *immediately* Overlook it; and would be less harrassing to those who labour; as well as more beneficial for those who employ them.

Under this view of the subject, and of the change which is about to take place next year, by having rented one of the Farms, the Mill, and Distillery, and havg it in contemplan to do the same with the Fishery, at the Ferry, the principal services which you can render me (after these events take place) is to explain to the Overseers (who will be furnished with duplicates), the plan, in all its parts, which is detailed in the following sheets; hear their ideas with respect to the *order* in which the different sorts of work therein pointed out, shall succeed each other, for the purpose of carrying it onto the best advantage, correct any erroneous projects they may be disposed to adopt for the execution thereof; and then see that, they adhere strictly to whatsoever may be resolved on; and that they are always (except when otherwise permitted) on their respective Farms, and with their People.

The work under such circumstances will go on smoothly; and that the Stock may be well fed, littered, and taken care of according to the directions which are given; it will be necessary to Inspect the conduct of the Overseers in this particular and those also whose immediate business it is to attend upon them, with a watchful eye; otherwise, and generally in severe weather, when attention and care is most needed, they will be most neglected.

Œconomy in all things is as commendable, in the Manager as it is beneficial and desirable by the Employer. And on a Farm, it shews itself in nothing more evidently or more essentially, than in not suffering the Provender to be wasted, but on the contrary, that every atom of it be used to the best advantage;

and likewise in not suffering the Ploughs, Harrows and other implements of husbandry thereon, and the Gears belonging to them, to be unnecessarily exposed; trodden under foot, Carts running over them; and abused in other respects.

More good is derived from looking into the minutiæs on a Farm, than strikes people at first view; and by examining the Farm yards, fences, and looking into fields, to see that *nothing* is within, but what are *allowed* to be there, produces more good, or at least avoids more evil, oftentimes, than riding from one working party, or from one Overseer to another, generally accomplishes.

I have mentioned these things not only because they have occurred to me; and tho' apparently, trifles, but because they prove far otherwise, in the result.

And It is hoped, and will be expected, that more effectual measures will be pursued to make butter another year; for it is almost beyond belief, that from 101 Cows actually reported on a late enumeration of the Cattle, that I am obliged to *buy butter* for the use of my family.

To visit my Lands in the Western Country (at my expence), so soon as the weather becomes temperate and settled in the Spring; Reporting the circumstances under which they are, and what they are capable of, will be expected, It being of importance for me to receive a just, and faithful acct. respecting them.

After perusing the accompanying plans, *carefully,* furnish me with your opinion on the two following points. 1st. what quantity of Seeds, and of what kinds, I shall have occasion to *buy;* and against what periods, for seeding the Grounds in the year 1800 in the manner therein directed: and 2d. whether any, and what number of hands can be withdrawn from the three Farms I retain in that year; In considering this last mentioned point, hear the opinions of the Overseers.

The acts. for the *present* quarter must be made final; as an entire new scene will take place afterwards; In doing this, advertise (in the Alexa. Paper) for the claims, of every kind and nature whatsoever, against me, to be brot. in to you by the 1st. of Jan: that I may wipe them off, and begin on a fresh score; All balances in my favr. must either be recd.; or reduced to specialties, that there may be no disputes thereafter.

I am yr. sincere friend, Well wisher, and Servant.

*RIVER FARM

CROPS FOR, AND OPERATIONS THEREON, FOR THE YEAR 1800

Mount Vernon, December 10, 1799.

Field No 1. Is now partly in Wheat. Part thereof is to be sown with Oats. Another part may be sown with Pease, broad cast. Part is in meadow, and will remain so. And the most broken, washed, and indifferent part, is to remain uncultivated; but to be harrowed and smoothed in the Spring, and the worst parts thereof (if practicable) to be covered with litter, straw, weeds or any kind of vegitable Rubbish to prevent them from running into gullies.

No 2. One fourth is to be in Corn, and to be sown with wheat; another fourth in Buckwheat and Pease, half of it in the one, and half of it in the other, sown in April; to be ploughed in as a green dressing; and by actual experiment, to ascertain which is best. The whole of this fourth is to be sown with Wheat also; another fourth part is to be naked fallow for wheat; and the other, and last quarter, to be appropriated for Pumpkins, Simlins, Turnips, Yateman Pease (in hills), and such other things of this kind as may be required; and to be sown likewise with Rye after they are taken off, for seed.

No 3 Is now in Wheat, to be harvested in the year 1800; the stubble of which, immediately after Harvest, is to be plowed in

and sown thin with Rye; and such parts thereof as are low, or produces a luxurient growth of grain, is to have grass-seeds sprinkled over it. The whole for Sheep to run on, in the day, (but housed at night) during the winter and spring months. If it should be found expedient, part thereof in the spring might be reserved, for the purpose of Seed.

No 4 Will be in Corn, and is to be sown in the autumn of that year with wheat, to be harvested in 1801, and to be treated in all respects as has been directed for No. 3, the preceeding year. It is to be manured as much as the means will permit, with such aids as can be procured during the present Winter, and ensuing Spring.

Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8. Are to remain as they are, but nothing suffered to run upon them; as ground will be allotted for the sole purpose of Pasturage, and invariably used as such.

Clover-Lots

No. 1 Counting from the Spring branch, is to be planted in Potatoes.

No 2 That part thereof which is now in Turnips, is to be sown with Oats and clover; the other part, being *now* in Clover, is to remain so until it comes into Potatoes, by rotation.

No 3 Is also in Clover at present, and is to remain so, as just mentioned, for No. 3.

No 4 Is partly in Clover, and partly in Timothy, and so to be, until its turn for Potatoes.

The rotation for these Lots

Invariably is to be, 1st. Potatoes, highly manured; 2d. Oats, and clover sown therewith; 3d. Clover; 4th. Clover. Then to begin again with Potatoes, and proceed as before. The present Clover lots must be Plastered.

All green Sward, rough ground, or that wch. is heavily covered with weeds, bottle brush grass, and such things as by being

turned in will ferment, putrify, and ameliorate the Soil, should be plowed in, in Autumn, and at such times in Winter, as can be done while the ground is dry, and in condition for it.

Pasture-Grounds

The large lot adjoining the Negro houses and Orchd, is to have Oats sown on the Potatoe and Pumpkin ground; with which, and on the Rye also, in that lot and on the Mellon part, orchard-grass seeds are to be sown; and thereafter to be kept as a standing Calf pasture; and for Ewes (which may require extra: care) at yeaning, or after they have yeaned.

The other large lot, NorthEast of the Barn lane, is to be appropriated, *always,* as a Pasture for the Milch Cows; and probably working Oxen, during the Summer Season.

The Woodland, and the old field, commonly called Johnstons, are designed for *Common* Pasture, and to be so applied, *always*. To which, if it should be found inadequate to the stock of the Farm, Field No. 8, and the Woodland therein, may be added.

Meadows

Those already established, and in train, must continue; and the next to be added to them, is the Arm of the Creek which runs up to the Spring house, and forks; both prongs of which must be grubbed, and wrought upon at every convenient moment when the weather will permit, down to the line of the Ditch which encloses the lots for clover &ca.

And as the fields come into cultivation, or, as labour can be spared from other work, and circumstances, will permit, the heads of all the Inlets in them must be reclaimed, and laid to grass, whether they be large, or small; forasmuch as nothing will run on, or can trespass upon, or injure the grass; no fencing being reqd.

Mud for Compost

The season is now too far advanced, and too cold to be engaged in a work that will expose the hands to wet: but, it is of such essential importance that it should be set about seriously, and with spirit next year, for the Summers Sun and Winters frost to prepare it for the Corn, and other crops of 1801, that all the hands of the Farm, not indispensably engaged in the Crops, should, so soon as Corn planting is compleated in the spring, be uninterruptedly employed in raising Mud from the Pocosons, and even from the bed of the Creek, into the Scow: And the Carts, so soon as the Manure for the Corn and Potatoes in 1800 is carried out is to be incessantly drawing it to compost heaps in the field, which are to be manured by it. What number of hands can be set apart for this *all important work,* remains to be considered, and decided upon.

Penning Cattle, and folding Sheep

On the fields intended for Wheat, from the first of May, when the former should be turned out to Pasture, until the first of November, when they ought to be Housed, must be practiced *invariably:* and to do it with regularity and propriety, the Pen for the first, and the fold for the latter, should be proportioned to the number of each kind of Stock; and both these to as much ground as they will manure sufficiently, in the space of a Week, for Wheat; beyond which they are not to remain in a place, except on the poorest spots; and *even these* had better be aided by litter or something else than to depart from an established rule, of removing the Pens on a *certain* day in every week: For in this, as in every thing else, system is essential to carry on business well, and with ease.

Feeding

The Work horses and Mules are always to be in their Stalls, and well littered and cleaned when they are out of Har-

ness; and they are to be plenteously fed with cut straw, and as much chopped Grain, Meal, or Bran, with a little salt mixed therewith, as will keep them *always* in good condition for work; seeing also that they are watered, as regularly as they are fed. this is their winter feed: for spring, Summer and Autumn, it is expected that Soiling of them on green food, first with Rye, then with Lucern, and next with Clover, with very little grain, will enable them to perform their Work.

The Oxen, and other horned Cattle, are to be housed from the first of November, until the first of May; and to be fed as well as the means on the Farm will admit. The first (Oxen) must always be kept in good condition. Housed in the Stalls designed for them; and the Cows (so many of them as can find places) on the opposite side. The rest, with the other Cattle, must be in the newly erected Sheds; and the whole carefully Watered every day. The Ice, in frozen weather, being broken, so as to admit them to clean Water.

With respect to the Sheep, they must receive the best protection that can be given them *this* Winter; against the next, I hope they will be better provided for.

And with regard to the Hogs, the plan must be, to raise a given number of *good ones,* instead of an indiscriminate number of *indifferent ones,* half of which die, or are stolen before the period arrives for putting them up as porkers. To accomplish this, a sufficient number of the best Sows should be appropriated to the purpose; and so many pigs raised from them as will ensure the quantity of Pork the Farm ought to furnish. Whether it will be most advisable to restrain these hogs from running at large, or not, can be decided with more precision after the result of those *now* in close pens are better known. The exact quantity of Corn used by those which are now in Pens should be ascertained, and regularly reported, in order to learn the result.

Stables and Farm Pens

These ought to be kept well littered, and the Stalls clean; as well for the comfort of the Creatures that are contained in them; as for the purpose of manure; but as straw canot be afforded for this purpose, *Leaves,* and such spoiled Straw or weeds as will not do for food, must serve for the Stables; and the first, that is leaves, and Corn Stalks, is all that can be applied to the Pens. To do this work effectually, let the Cornstalks be cut down by a *few* careful people with *sharp* hoes, so low as never to be in the way of Scythes at harvest; and whenever the Wheat will admit Carts to run on it without injury, to bring them off, and stack them near the Farm Pens. In like manner let the People, with their blankets, go every evening, or as often as occasion may require, to the nearest wood and fill them with leaves for the purposes above mentioned; bottoming the beds with Corn Stalks, and covering them *thick* with leaves. A measure of this sort will be, if strictly attended to, and punctually performed, of great utility in every point of view. It will save food, Make the Cattle lay warm and comfortable, and produce much manure. The Hogs also in pens must be well bedded in leaves.

Fencing

As stock of no kind, according to this plan, will be suffered to run on the arable fields, or Clover lots (except Sheep, in the day, on the Rye field as has been mentioned before) partition fences between the fields until they can be raised of Quicks, may be dispens'd with. But it is of great importance that all the exterior or outer fences, should be substantially good; and those also wch. divide the Common, or Woodland Pasture, from the fields and Clover Lots are to be very respectable.

To accomplish this desirable object in as short a time as possible, and with the smallest expence of timber, the Post and

Rail fence which runs from the Negro quarters or rather from the corner of the lot enclosing them up to the division between fields No 7 and No 8 may be placed on the Bank (which must be raised higher) that runs from thence (where it was burnt) to the Creek. In like manner, the fence from the gate which opens into No 2, quite down to the River, along the Cedar hedge row, as also those Rails which are between No 1 and 2 and between No 2 and 3 may all be taken away and applied to the outer fences, and the fences of the lanes from the Barn into the Woodland Pasture, and from the former (the Barn) into No 5; for the fences of all these lanes must be *good,* as the Stock must have a free and uninterrupted passage along them, at all times, from the Barn yard to the Woodland Pasture.

One of the gates near the Fodder house, may be moved up to the range of the lane, by the gate, near that which leads into field No 2; and the other may be placed at the other end of the lane, by the Negro quarters: and so long as Mr. Mason's old field remains uninclosed the outer gate into Field No 8 wd. stand better in the Fence which runs from the division between fields No 7 and 8 to the Creek than where it now is.

All the feng. from the last mentioned place, (between me and Mr. Mason) until it joins Mr. Lears Farm, and thence with the line between him and me, until it comes to the River, will require to be substantially good; at its termination on the River, dependance must be placed in a Water fence; for, if made of common Rails, they would be carried off by boatmen for fire Wood. The fences seperating fields No 1 and No. 8 from the Woodland pasture must also be made good, to prevent depredations on the fields by my own stock.

CROPS, &CA FOR 1801

No 5 Is to be in Corn, and to be invariable in that article. It is to be planted (if drills are thought to be ineligable until the

ground is much improved) in Rows 6 feet by 4, or 7 feet by 3½; the wide part open to the South. These hills are to be manured as highly as the means will admit; and the Corn planted every year in the middle of the Rows of the preceeding year; by doing which, and mixing the Manure and Earth by the Plow and other workings, the whole, in time, will be enrichned.

The washed and gullied parts of this field should be levelled, and as much improved as possible, or left uncultivated. Although it is more broken than some of the other fields, it has its advantages. 1st. it has several Inlets extending into it with easy assents therefrom; 2d. it is convenient to the mud in the bed of the Creek whensoever (by means of the Scow) resort is had thereto, and good landing places; and thirdly, it is as near to the Barn as any other (when a bridge and causeway is made over the Spring branch). To these may be added, that it is more remote from Squirrels than any other.

No 6 and 7 Or such part thereof as is not so much washed and gullied as to render plowing ineligable, are to be fallowed for Wheat. One of which, if both cannot, is to have the stubble plowed in and sown with Rye; and the low, and strong parts to have Timothy or Orchard grass-seeds, perhaps both, in different places, sprinkled over them for the purpose of raising Seed. On the Rye pasture the Sheep are to be fed in winter and Spring, and treated in all respects as directed in the case of No. 3 in 1800

IN THE YEARS 1802, 1803, AND SO ON

The Corn ground, remaining the same, two fields in following numbers, will be fallowed for Wheat; and treated in all respects, as mentioned above. And if Pumpkins, Simlins, Turnips, Pease, and such like growths are found beneficial to the land, or useful and profitable for Stock, ground may readily be found for them.

These are the great outlines of a Plan, and the operations of it, for the next year, and for years to come, for River Farm. The necessary arrangements, and all the preparatory measures for carrying it into effect, ought to be adopted without delay, and invariably pursued. Smaller matters may, and undoubtedly will, occur occasionally; but none, it is presumed, that can militate against it materially. To carry it into effect advantageously, it becomes the indispensable duty of him who is employed to overlook and conduct the operations, to take a prospective, and comprehensive view of the *whole* business which is laid before him, that the several parts thereof may be so ordered and arranged, as that one sort of work may follow another sort in proper Succession, and without loss of labour, or of time; for nothing is a greater waste of the latter, and consequently of the former (time producing labour, and labour money) than shifting from one thing to another before it is finished; as if chance, or the impulse of the moment, not judgmt. and foresight, directed the measure. It will be acknowledged that weather, and other circumstances may, at times, interrupt a regular course of proceedings; but if a plan is well digested beforehand, they cannot interfere long, with a man who is acquainted with the nature of the business, and the Crops he is to attend to.

Every attentive, and discerning person, who has the *whole* business of the year laid before him, and is acquainted with the nature of the work, can be at no loss to lay it out to advantage. He will know that there are many things wch. can be accomplished in winter as well as in summer; others, that Spring, Summer and Autumn *only* are fit for. In a word, to use the Wiseman's saying "that there is a time, and a season for all things" and that, unless they are embraced, nothing will thrive;

or go on smoothly. There are many sorts of *Indoors* work which can be executed in Hail, rain or Snow, as well as in sunshine; and if they are set about in fair weather (unless there be a necessity for it) there will be nothing to do in foul weather; the people therefore must be idle. The man of prudence and foresight, will always keep these things in view, and order his work accordingly; so as to suffer no waste of time, or idleness. The same observations apply with equal force to frozen ground; and grounds too wet to work in; or if worked, will be injured thereby.

These observations might be spun to a greater length, but they are sufficient to produce reflexion, and reflexion with Industry, and proper attention, will produce the end that is to be wished.

There is one thing however I cannot forbear to add, and in strong terms; it is, that whenever I order a thing to be done, it must be done; or a reason given at the *time,* or as soon as the impracticability is discovered, why it cannot; which will produce a countermand, or change. But it is not for the person receiving the order, to suspend or dispense with its execution; and after it has been supposed to have gone into effect, for me to be told that nothing has been done in it; that it will be done; or that it could not be done; either of these is unpleasant, and disagreeable to me, having been accustomed all my life to more regularity, and punctuality, and *know* that nothing but system and method is required to accomplish all reasonable requests.[89]

[89] Like directions, varying in details, of course, were written out at length for Union Farm and Muddy Hole Farm; both written, dated and signed, as were the directions for River Farm, by Washington. The directions for Union and Muddy Hole end with the order that mud and rich earth for compost, penning cattle and folding sheep, feeding, stables, and Farm Pens "are all to be managed precisely as is directed for River Farm; or, as nearly so, as the different circumstances of the Farms will admit." The directions for Union Farm will be found printed in Ford's *Writings of Washington.*

To MAJOR GENERAL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Mount Vernon, December 12, 1799.

Sir: I have duly received your letter of the 28th ultimo, enclosing a Copy of what you had written to the Secretary of War, on the subject of a Military Academy.

The Establishment of an Institution of this kind, upon a respectable and extensive basis, has ever been considered by me as an Object of primary importance to this Country; and while I was in the Chair of Government I omitted no proper opportunity of recommending it, in my public Speeches, and otherways, to the attention of the Legislature: But I never undertook to go into a *detail* of the organization of such an Academy; leaving this task to others, whose pursuits in the paths of Science, and attention to the Arrangements of such Institutions, had better qualified them for the execution of it. For the same reason I must now decline making any observations on the details of your plan; and as it has already been submitted to the Secretary of War, through whom it would naturally be laid before Congress, it might be too late for alterations, if any should be suggested.

I sincerely hope that the Subject will meet with due attention, and that the reasons for its establishment, which you have so clearly pointed out in your letter to the Secretary, will prevail upon the Legislature to place it upon a permanent and respectable footing. With very great esteem etc.[90]

*To JAMES ANDERSON

Mount Vernon, December 13, 1799.

Mr Anderson: I did not know that you were here yesterday morning until I had mounted my horse, otherwise I should

[90] In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

have given you what I now send. As Mr. Rawlins was going to the Union Farm, to lay off the Clover lots, I sent by him the Duplicate for that Farm to his brother; and as I was going to River Farm myself, I carried a copy for that Farm to Dowdal. Both of them have been directed to consider them attentively, and to be prepared to give you their ideas of the mode of arrangeing the Work when they are called upon.

Such a Pen as I saw yesterday at Union Farm, would, if the Cattle were kept in it one Week, destroy the whole of them. They would be infinitely more comfortable in this, or any other weather, in the open fields; Dogue run Farm Pen may be in the same condition. It did not occur to me as I passed through the yard of the Barn to look into it. I am, etc.[91] [H. S. P.]

[91] This is the last known letter that Washington wrote. His last writing is, more than likely, the entry in the "Diary" for Dec. 13, 1799.

DEATH OF WASHINGTON

On December 14, the day on which Washington died, Tobias Lear wrote to Dr. Gustavus Richard Brown, of Port Tobacco, Md.: "General Washington is very ill with Quincy. Dr. Craik is sent for from Alexa. but has not yet come down. Mrs. Washington's anxiety is great, and she requests me to write to you desiring you will come over without delay, as it is impossible for the General to continue long without relief. I expect Dr. Craik every moment, but cannot wait for his coming before the Messenger goes for you. The General complained last evening of a sore throat; this morning about 4 O'clock he was much distressed with it. He grows worse: can swallow nothing, and can scarcely breathe." From a recent copy in the Toner Transcripts in the Library of Congress.

A full account of Washington's last illness and death will be found in Ford's *Writings of Washington* (vol. 14).

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

TEXTS RECEIVED, OR DISCOVERED, TOO LATE FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR PROPER CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

*To GOVERNOR ROBERT DINWIDDIE

King George County, June 10, 1752.

Honble. Sir: Being impatient to know Colo. Fitzhugh's result, I went to Maryland as I returned Home. He is willing to accept of the Adjutancy of the Northern Neck, if he can obtain it on the terms he proposes; which he hardly expects will be granted Him: The inclosed is his Letter, wherein I believe he informs of his intentions. He told Me, he would, when conveniency admitted, build a House in Virginia, at which, he should sometimes reside. If I could have the Honour of obtaining that, in case Colo. Fitzhugh does not, or either of the other two; should take the greatest pleasure in punctually obeying from time, to time, your Honours commands; and by a strict observance of my Duty, render myself worthy of the trust reposed in Me: I am sensible my best endeavours will not be wanting, and doubt not, but by a constant application to fit myself for the Office could I presume Your Honour had not in view a more deserving Person.

I flatter myself I should meet with the approbation of the Gentlemen of the Council I am etc.[1]

[1] From a photostat of the original kindly presented by George A. Ball, of Muncie, Ind.

To COLONEL JOHN STANWIX

Fort Loudoun, June 16, 1757.

Sir: This Moment the inclosed Letters came to my Hands. I have not lost a Moments time in transmitting them to you, as I look upon the Intelligence to be of the utmost Consequence. If the Enemy is coming down in such Numbers and with such a Train of Artillery as we are bid to expect Fort Cumberland must inevitably fall into their Hands, as no efforts can be timely made to save it. I send you Sir a Copy of a Council of War held at this Place, and I intend to persue the Resolution therein contained, till I receive further orders how to Act. It is morally certain that the next object which the French have in View is Fort Loudoun, and that yet it is in a very untenable posture, they have no roads for Carriages into any other Province; but through this place, and there lyes here a quantity of Stores belonging to his Majesty and this Colony very much exposed and unguarded, I shall not take up your time Sir with a tedious detail of Facts. You will be a sufficient Judge of the posture of affairs from that which is already related. I shall only add that if the Enemy attempt this place I shall endeavour to defend it whilst there is a dawn of hope, I have dispatched an Express to Governor Dinwiddie, and another to Governour Sharp I am etc. [H. L.]

To CAPTAIN HUGH WADDELL

Fort Loudoun, October 23, 1757.

Sir: Inclosed is a Copy of a Letter from Sir Wm Johnson to Governour Denny, and of a Letter from Governor Denny to me, relative to the Indians that this accompanies

I Herewith Send Ensign Roy of my Regiment, to see them properly provided with Necessaries for their Journey as far as

your Fort and doubt not for the reasons specified in the inclosed, of your doing everything in your Power to render the remainder of their Journey as expeditious and agreeable as Circumstances will admit of I am etc.[2]

To SALLY CARY FAIRFAX[3]

Mount Vernon, November 15, 1757.

Dear Madam: I have lingered under an indisposition for more than three months; and finding no relief above, on the contrary, that I daily grew worse, I have followed my surgeon's advice, to leave the place, and try what effect fresh air and water may have on my disorder. On Sunday last I arrived here, and on yesterday Mr. Green[4] was so kind as to favor me with a visit, and prescribe for me. He forbids the use of meats, and substitutes jellies and such kinds of foods for a constancy; now, as my sister[5] is from home, I have no person that has been used to making these kind of things, and no directions, I find myself under a necessity of applying to you for your Rec't Book for a little while, and indeed for such materials to make jellies as you think I may not at the time have, for I cant get Hartshorn Shavings anywhere. I must also beg the favor of you to lend me a pound, or a smaller quantity if you can't spare that, of Hyson Tea. I am just out and cannot get a supply anywhere in these parts. Please also to lend me a bottle or two of Mountain or Canary wine. Mr. Green directs me to drink a glass or two of this every day mixt with water of Gum Arabic.

Pray make my compliments acceptable to the young ladies of your family, and believe me to be, dear Madam, Your, etc.[6]

[2]From a photostat of a copy in the Indian Books, VI, 118, Historical Commission of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C., through the kindness of A. S. Salley.
[3]Mrs. George William Fairfax.
[4]Rev. Charles Green.
[5]Mrs. John Augustine Washington.
[6]From the printed text in John Corbin's *The Unknown Washington*.

*To SALLY CARY FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, February 13, 1758.

Dear Madam: The Inclosd came to my hands this moment. Colo. Carlyle desird after I had perusd the Papers, that I woud send them to you, but as he did at the same time inform me that his Letter coverd one from Colo. Fairfax (on whose safe arrival we offer our Congratulations) I have not delayd a moment in forwarding them. When you are at leizure to favour us with a visit we shall endeavour to partake as much as possible of the joy you receive on this Occasion.

My Brother and Sister join me in their Compliments to you and the Young Ladies. I am, etc.

PS When you have read the Papers we shoud be glad of the oppertunity of Perusing them.[7]

To JOHN BALLENDINE

Ft. Loudoun, April 18, 1758.

Sir: We are in great and immediate want of Iron, of the following dimensions; vizt.

Two ton, of one-inch, square bars.

One ton, of three inch broad, and half an inch thick, ditto. Be pleased, therefore, to send the *whole,* or part thereof to this place, without delay. Dispatch in *this,* will encourage me to contract with you for iron on future occasions.

Mr. Smith has written to you for iron once or twice, before, and received none: Pray write me word how far we may depend on you *now*? I entreat, that you will not disappoint us. I am etc.[8]

[7] From a photostat of the original in the Boston Public Library.
[8] From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers.*

To COLONEL HENRY BOUQUET

[Fort Cumberland] August 28, 1758.

Sir: I had the pleasure of two Letters from you this morning, and as one of them was upon a most important Subject, I read it with great attention, as every thing that has been so seriously considered by you deserves my utmost regard, your arguments are clear, and delivered with that openess and candour that becomes a Gentleman and a Soldier, but give me leave my Dear Sir to answer you in the same stile. At the sametime that I was favoured with your Letter, I received one from the General, with express Orders to begin to open the road from this place across the Allegany Mountains, and as I shall always oblige the directions of a Superior Officer with readiness, there was no room left to hesitate. In the present case I shall execute them with the greater pleasure, as Col. Byrd who is this Moment arrived from Edmund [*sic*] Swamp, whither he had accompanied Sr. John St. Clair, assures me that a very good Waggon road may be made with ease and speed through the gap that we have lately discovered, and this is the joint opinion of every person who went, they also agree that there are great numbers of fine springs the whole way, and good food for Horses so far as they have yet gone, Sir John went forward this morning, and sent me back word by a person coming from Major Armstrong, that as far as he had gone he found the road good, and every other thing answering our expectations. I cannot therefore entertain the least doubt that we shall all now go on hand in hand and that the same zeal for the service that has hitherto been so distinguishing a part of your character will carry you by Reis Town over the Alligany Mountains to Fort du Quesne.[9]

[9] The text is from a copy in the British Museum (Addl. Ms. 21641).

*To JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Camp at Rays Town, September 25, 1758.

Dear Sir: Your acceptable favour of the 15th. I had the pleasure to receive Six days afterwards.

I greatly bewail the misfortune that gives rise to the following relation. Major Grant of the Highlanders with a Chosen detachment of 800 Marchd from Our advancd Post at Loyal Hannan the 12th Instt. for Fort Duquesne what to do there I cannot certainly say, but it is reported and I suppose justly, to Annoy the Enemy and gain Intelligence. In the Night of the 13th. He took post with his Troops in sevel. Columns on a Hill just above the Fort, from whence he sent out to Reconnoitre the Works, this they did, and burnt a Log House just by the Walls. Not content with this Success Majr Grant must needs sent an Engineer in full view of the Fort next morning with a covering Party to take a Plan of the place, he also orderd Majr Lewis two Miles back to their Baggage Guard where Captn. Bullet Commanded, and while this was doing causd the Revielle to beat in different places; which causd the Enemy to Salle upon them in very great numbers. hence ensued an obstinate Engagement and the running away of the Pensylvanians, who were just behind, and ought to have Sustaind the Highlanders. Majr Lewis notwithstanding his former Orders Marchd up the Virginians with great dispatch and Intrepidity [mutilated] their bravely fell with more of my Officers besides Captn Walter Stewart who was left wounded in the Field (but is since come in) I had also 62 killd; this is a heavy stroke upon the Regiment who only had 8 Officers 166 Men there. I inclose you a Return of all the Troops that were there, of the killd wounded &ca. Your Friend Bullett has acquird immense honour in this Action, defending himself with what Virginian's

were left against the whole Force of the Enemy while his Ammunition lasted, and then was the last Man that left the Field. It is with infinite pleasure I till you that the Virginians, Officers and Men, distinguish themselves in the most eminent manner, that the General has Complimented me publickly on their good behaviour, and that every Mouth resounds their Praises. The Highlanders and them are become one People, shaking each other by the hand wherever they meet tho perfect Stranger's. I woud be more particular woud time permit me. I can only add some thing in answer to your Letter and then conclude.

The Floor of my Passage[10] is really an Eye sore to me, I woud therefore take it up if good and Seasond Plank could be laid in its place. You will do me a Singular favour to enquire after my Goods of Mr. William Nelson (of York)[11] in whose care they were lodgd, at his own request, and promise of sending them up. I have nothing fresh to add, I have long ago, and frequently, told you that if a happy Issue attended this Expedition 'twas more than I expected; I have no Reason to alter my Sentiments from any changes in our Affairs that yet have happend. Captn. Gist who carries this from hence to Winchester is to go from thence by Express with Letters to the Governor is waiting, you may imagine therefore I write in haste, and not so full as I would otherwise choose. Major Lewis is a great loss to the Regiment, and Colony we have the Honr. to serve; he opposd that Expedition to the utmost, unavailingly, but went chearfully upon it after his Sentiments were known, he desird his Friends however to remember (as he went out) that he had opposd it, foreseeing I imagine the Disaster that woud happend. Remember me kindly to all enquiring Friends, and be assured that I am etc.[12]

[10] At Mount Vernon.
[11] Yorktown, Va.
[12] From a photostat of the original through the courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

*To GOVERNOR HORATIO SHARPE

Mount Vernon, March 26, 1762.

Sir: Be so good as to pardon the liberty I presume to take in recommending to your Excellency's notice the Revd. Mr. West; a young Gentn. lately entered into Holy Orders, of a good Family, and unexceptionable Morals; this with truth I can venture to certifie as he is a neighbour of mine, and one of those few of whom every body speaks well. At present he is engagd to officiate as Curate to the Revd. Doctr. Swift of Port Tobo.; who it seems is in the last Stage of a Consumption, and attempting by a Voyage to England, the recovery of his health, but, shoud he fail in this (as most probably he will) and the Parish become vacant by his death. Mr. West woud think himself very happy in the honour of your presentment of him to the Cure, and I am fully persuaded that his endeavours woud merit the favour.

Your Excellency sometimes makes excursion's to Potomack on partys of Pleasure, I cannot conclude therefore without expressing the satisfaction I shoud receive in having the honour of a visit from you in one of those Tours. With very great Esteem etc. [H.L.]

To BURWELL BASSETT

Mount Vernon, August 28, 1762.

Dear Sir: I was favoured with your Epistle wrote on a certain 25th of July when you ought to have been at Church, praying as becomes every good Christian Man who has as much to answer for as you have; strange it is that you will be so blind to truth that the enlightning sounds of the Gospel cannot reach your Ear, nor no Examples awaken you to a sense of Goodness;

could you but behold with what religious zeal I hye me to Church on every Lords day, it would do your heart good, and fill it I hope with equal fervency; but heark'ee; I am told you have lately introduced into your Family, a certain production which you are lost in admiration of, and spend so much time in contemplating the just proportion of its parts, the ease, and conveniences with which it abounds, that it is thought you will have little time to animadvert upon the prospect of your crops &c; pray how will this be reconciled to that anxious care and vigilance, which is so escencially necessary at a time when our growing Property, meaning the Tobacco, is assailed by every villainous worm that has had an existence since the days of Noah (how unkind it was of Noah now I have mentioned his name to suffer such a brood of vermin to get a birth in the Ark) but perhaps you may be as well of as we are; that is, have no Tobacco for them to eat and there I think we nicked the Dogs, as I think to do you if you expect any more; but not without a full assurance of being with a very sincere regard etc.

P. S. don't forget to make my Compls. to Mrs. Bassett, Miss Dudy, and the little ones, for Miss Dudy cannot be classed with small people without offering her great Injustice. I shall see you I expect about the first of November.[13]

*To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY

Mount Vernon, September 11, 1762.

Gentn: On board the Nautilus Captn. Boyes I have consigned you Twenty two hhds of my Tobacco and Thirty of Master Custis's; and in the Brunswick Captn. Hurling from James River there are Ten more of mine, and twenty nine of Master

[13] From a typed copy of the original kindly furnished by Miss Dana Lyndon and Betty Lewis Ingle, of East Orange, N. J.

Custis's to your address likewise on which to make proper Insurance.

I have just received advice that Captn. Cuzzens in the Unity after having been at Sea sometime sprung a Leak and put back. I imagine therefore that She will now Sail with the Convoy appointed for the 20th. of this Month, and that it will be necessary to make fresh Insurance on my Twenty hhds on board for your House. I shall write fully in my next. at present I have only to add, that I am etc.[14]

*To GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, July 20, 1763.

Dear Sir: I have not a Lath in the World of any kind, seasoned or unseasoned, or you shoud be heartily welcome to them. I never knew before that it was in any wise necessary that they shoud be Seasoned, for I usually got and put them up as they were wanted. Smart bring's the Bucket &ca; he has been detained longer than ordinary by a mistake of Peters (or mine) who I told to make staples and hasps proper for your Locks (not considering I must confess, that there were Chamber Locks among them) and he went and prepared a kickshaw in imitation of the brass receptacle for the Bolt and has been obliged to make new ones. We beg you will accept of our Compliments to yourself, and render them agreable to Mrs. and Miss Fairfax. I am, etc.[15]

*To GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX

Thursday Morning, September 29, 1763.

Dear Sir: We are very sorry for Mrs. Fairfax's indisposition, and hope it is slight and will soon be removed. Mrs. Washington untill the arrival of your messenger, was in hopes of seeing

[14] The original is in the George Arents, Jr., Collection, New York City.
[15] From a photostat of the original in the Boston Public Library.

Mrs. Fairfax this morning, altho. it woud have been out of her power to have accompanied her in the intended Visit; for she also was siezed with a severe Ague about Noon yesterday and has not got clear of the Fever yet, and again my Sister, Austin and her two eldest daughters came late in the Evening.

If you have had time to examine our Mississipi Scheme,[16] and have come to any resolutions in consequence, I shoud be glad to know them, for I was desired (in case you Inclined to be an adventurer) to get you to sign the Articles and transmit an Account thereof to the next meeting of the Committee, which happen's now about, the better to know when our number is compleated; you will be so good also as to propose this matter to Doctr. Cockburne if you conceive it will meet his approbation, otherwise it will be unnecessary. My Sister presents her Compliments, and gives Mrs. Fairfax joy of her safe return to Virginia and Mrs. Washington joins in Complimts. to both Families as doth Dr. Sir, Yr. etc.[17]

*To ACTING GOVERNOR JOHN BLAIR[18]

May 17, 1768.

Honble Sir: At present the road from Fort Cumberland to Pittsburg is very thickly Inhabited; so much so at least, as to render the communication easy and convenient for Travellers, and for the transportation of Provisions &ca. from the Frontiers of this Colony to the last mentioned Garrison, and to the Settlers that now are, or may hereafter be fixed on the Ohio;

[16] The Mississippi Company was to be formed by 50 members, who were "to contribute equally towards the expence of sending an Agent to England to obtain from the Crown a Grant of Lands on the Mississippi aforesaid and its Waters." Every adventurer was to have 50,000 acres for a share; the crown was to protect the settlement from the Indians. A copy of the scheme or plan of the Company is in the writing of Washington in the *Washington Papers*, under date of June 3, 1763. There were, at that date, 19 members whose names are given.

[17] From a photostat of the original in the Boston Public Library.

[18] Acting governor by virtue of being president of the Virginia Council.

but if the People on the otherside of the Alligany shoud be totally removed, the difficulties of that communication of consequence becomes augmented, and Our Frontier Inhabitants (by odds the most contiguous, and best adapted for the purpose of furnishing the Kings Troops with Provisions and such like things) subjected to Inconveniencies the Contrary of which the People of Pensylvania enjoy in the greatest degree by having Garrisons established all along their Road: So sensible are our Frontier People of this, that several of them in talking to me upon the subject, did request, that I woud lay the matter before your Honour; hoping, that, by means of your representation, Stages might be permitted (I mean some of the Inhabitants suffer'd to remain only) at three or four different places along the Road (that Our Assembly levied money towards the opening of) to the end that Travellers, drivers of Cattle, Hogs, Pack Horses &ca. might be accomodated with halting Places and Provision, to sustain themselves and Cattle in a March so tedious, and often incommoded by the swelling of many large Waters which they are compeld to cross. To this request I promised a compliance, in full assurance, that if the matter appeard in the same light to your honr., it does to me, you woud readily lay the Circumstances of it before his Excellency Genl. Gage, whose powers, I apprehend, can regulate these matters; and who; I am perswaded, in consideration of the benefits which his Majesty's Troops will derive from ready Supplies to his Garrisons, woud chearfully come into a measure of this kind; which, from its nature, can give no offence to the Indians, nor any one else; unless there be People in the world, so selfish, as to aim at a monopoly of those advantages which may follow a Trade to Pittsburg and the Country round it. I hope I shall stand excused for the liberty I have taken in laying this affair before your Honr. with great respect I remain etc. [C. L.]

*PACKING MEMORANDUM

[Mount Vernon, July 30, 1769.]

PUT UP

Blew Coat
Buff Vest and Breeches
1 pair Nankeen Breech
Old riding Do.
2 White-Vests
1 Worked Nankn. do.
3 pair drawers
9 Shirts
9 Stocks
5 White Handkerchfs
5 Silk
1 pair Boot Stockings
2 pair Shoe

Shoes, Slippers, Buckles
Dressing gown, Razors &ca &ca

The above is besides what I have on.[19]

ADVERTISEMENT

Mount Vernon, Fairfax County.

His Excellency the Governour, by and with the consent of his Majesty's Council, having been pleased to grant 200,000 acres

[19] From a photograph of the original in the Würtenbergische Landesbibliothek, Stuttgart, kindly furnished by Dr. Löffler.

of land on the *Great Canhawa,* &c. to the officers and soldiers who embarked in the service of this colony, agreeable to a proclamation issued the 19th of *February* 1754, by the Hon. *Robert Dinwiddie,* Esq; the Lieutenant Governour; and having, moreover, been pleased to require that I should receive the several and respective claims of every person who engaged in the service aforesaid, before the battle of the *Meadows* in 1754,[20] I do hereby give this publick notice thereof, requesting that every officer and soldier, or their representatives, will exhibit their respective claims to a share of these lands, properly attested, to me, before the 10th day of *October* next ensuing, in order that the whole may be laid before his Lordship and Council, and finally adjusted. And to the intent that no unnecessary application may be made, it is hereby signified that no person who entered into the service of this colony after the said battle of the Meadows (which concluded the campaign of 1754) is entitled to any part of these 200,000 acres of land, as they were given to the first adventures, under the proclamation aforesaid.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.[21]

*To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY

Mount Vernon, August 20, 1770.

Gentn. This Letter accompanies my Invoices for Potomack and York Rivers as also Mr and Miss Custis's. Agreeable to the several Orders therein containd you will please to dispatch the Goods and by the first Ships bound to the respective Rivers. Those for Potomack will come I hope by a more careful hand than the last did as I neither receivd the Goods nor Letters by Captn. Saunderson till the middle of June nor coud ever discover in what Ship, by what Captn, or to what part of the

[20] Known also as Fort Necessity.
[21] From the *Virginia Gazette,* Dec. 21, 1769.

Country they came (the duplicate by Peterson giving no insight into any of these matters but left me in full belief that the Ship was lost as such a length of time had elapsd between the date of your Letter and the receipt of it). In short I do not know to this hour how the Goods came to this River as it was by Accident I heard they were Stored at Boyds hole about 60 Miles from this place and was obliged to send for them at my own expence which will often happen if they are sent into any other River than the one they are destind to; but why this shoud have been the case in the Instance before us I am at a loss to guess as there were two Ships Saild from London to Potomack after Johnstoun did; and a little before, or nearly about the time of the date of your Letter by Saunderson, to wit, Grig in the Service of Mollison and Walker belonging to Deberts, Lee, and Sayre.

When I opend the Packages a piece of Duffield chargd £4.13 was found eaten to a honey Comb (by Moth); whether this was the effect of long lying or carelessness of the Woolen Draper I shall not undertake to determine but certain it is, that I shall not be able to get a single Garment out of the whole piece. By Merchants more accustomd to the Importation of Goods than I am, I have been told that it must have been packd up in the order I receivd it, as there is no such thing as Moths eating in a close Parcel. If this really was the case, it is a species of Dealing which does not reflect much honr. upon the reputation of Messrs. Mauduit Wright & Co.

By Captn. Peterson I have Shipd you 32 Hhds of Mr. Custis's Tobo. and mine consisting of 17 more the Sales of which I hope and flatter myself will be equal to other Tobacco's made in the same Neighbourhood; but which give, me leave to add, has not been the case hitherto notwithstanding you seem to think that I cannot be otherwise than pleased with the last Acct. you rendered.

That 11½d. a lb. is such a price as a Planter (in a tolerable good year) may afford to make Tobacco for, I shall not deny; but it does not follow as a consequence that I shoud be satisfied therewith in behalf of myself and ward when a Succession of Short Crops have given a Universal start to Tobo. and when I know (if the Veracity of some Gentlemen with whom I conversed at Williamsburg when I was down there last is to be credited) that other Crops made in York and James City Counties not Six Miles from Mr. Custis's Plantation and mine, have sold at 12d. and 12½ per lb; and the common transfer Tobo. a large proportion of which we pay towards the support of a Minister in York County, when prizd and Shipd to London fetchd 12. round what reason can be Assignd then for my being pleasd with 11. and 11½ (averaging about £ 12 a Hhd) when the commonest Arronoko Tobo. fetchd this in every Port in Great Britain I know not; as it is by no means presumable, that the Tobacco which Mr. Valentine now makes, and Stems a fourth or a third of, in order to make it good, shoud be of Inferior quality to the general run of purchasd Tobaco.; or worse than that, which he himself has applied to the payment of the Minister's Salery; to do which, and to answer all other Publick Claims it is well known that the most indifferent of our (Inspected) Tobo. is always appropriated. Upon the whole, the repeated disappointment which I meat with has reduced me to a delemma which I am not very well reconcild to. To decline a Corrispondance either altogether or in part which has subsisted for so many years is by no means my Inclination; and to persevere in a Consignment which seems to tend to the prejudice of myself and Ward, not only in the Sales of our Tobacco, but the purchase of Goods, is hardly to be expected.

That my Goods are for the most part exceedingly dear bought and the directions which are given for the choice of particular Articles not always attended to, I have no Scruples in declaring. The first is no otherwise to be proovd than by a comparison of the prices and quality. The Second is to be evincd by numberless Instances; two of which I shall give as the most recent and Important. Having occasion for Window Glass for a House I was building I sent for my quantity 9 by 11; and got it in 8 by 10; this was a considerable disappointment, and no small disadvantage to me; but not equal to the one that followd upon the Heels of it: I mean the Chariot, which I begd might be made of well seasond Materials, and by a Masterly Workman; instead of which, it was made of Wood so exceedingly Green that the Pannels slipd out of the mouldings before it was two months in use. Split from one end to the other; and became so open at the joints, tho every possible care was taken of it, that I expect very little further Service from it with all the repairs I can bestow.

Besides this, we frequently have slight Goods and sometimes old and unsaleable Articles put of upon us, and at such advancd Prices, that one woud be Inclind to think the Tradesmen did not expect to be paid in haste for them; for it is a fact incontestably true, that Linnen's, and other Articles that have their prices proportioned to their respective qualities, are to be bought in the Factors Stores here almost as Cheap as we Import them, after the Merchant has laid on a sufficient advance for his profit. Disagreeable it is to me to mention these things to you, but when it is considered that my own dealings are confind wholely, and my wards principally to your House, it is not to be wondered at that I shoud be dissatisfied with in bought Goods, or a more indifft. price for Tobo. than is given to my Neighbours.

I am very glad that by meeting with Colo. Stewart you have got quit of the troublesome Doctr. McLean; the nett sum of £302 I shoud have been very well content to have receivd, as I lent this Money to that Gentlemen to be returnd or not, as it suited his convenience; never expecting, or desiring a farthing of Interest for the use of it.

You will perceive in looking over the several Invoices that some of the Goods there required, are upon condition that the Act of Parliament Imposing a Duty upon Tea, Paper &ca. for the purpose of raising a Revenue in America is totally repeald; and I beg the favour of you to be governd strictly thereby, as it will not be in my power to receive any Articles contrary to our Non-Importation Agreement, to which I have Subscribd, and shall religeously adhere to, if it was, as I coud wish it to be ten times as strict. I am etc.

*To LORD BOTETOURT

Mount Vernon, September 9, 1770.

My Lord: The very obliging offer your Lordship was pleasd to make me in behalf of the Officers and Soldiers, who (under faith of Government) lay claim to the 200,000 Acres of Land on the Waters of Ohio promisd them by Proclamn. in 1754 I postpond availing myself of because it was evident to me from the knowledge I have of the back Country and the rapidity with which it is settling that any considerable delay in the prosecution of our Plan woud amount to an absolute defeat of the Grant inasmuch as Emigrants are daily Sealing the choice Spots of Land and waiting for the oppertunity (when the Office is opend) of solliciting a legal Title under the advantages of Possession and Improvement; two powerful Plea's in an Infant Country. I therefore hoped My Lord, as the Officers and Soldiers who suffered in the cause of their Country still do hope,

that notwithstanding your Lordship was of opinion that you coud not at that time vest them with an absolute Grant of the Land, that you woud nevertheless permit them to take such steps at their own expence and rick as others did for the security of their qty of Land agreeable to the Proclamation under which they claim; especiatly as the claim of the soldiery may be considerd to all intents and purposes as a Compact between the Govemt and them; that the whole voice of the Country is in favour of it; and that little doubts remd. of these Lands falling within the limits of Virginia when the Boundary coud be establishd

This My Lord was the light in which I view the matter; in this point of view it also appeard to the Officers who lately met agreeable to my Summon's; but now, a report prevails that a large Tract of Country on the Ohio Including all the Land which this Governt. Voted £2,500 Ster for the purchase and Survey of, is actually granted to a Company of Gentlemen in England and is to be formd into a seperate Governmt. immediately. If this report be true, there is no doubt but that your Lordship has recd. the most Authentick Accts. of it, as it so essensially concerns the Interests and expectations of this Country; dare I therefore My Lord presume to ask if your Lordship has recd any Advice of it? and, if so, whether there is any reserve in favour of all or any of the Orders of Council here? that I may from thence form some Judgment of the Predicament we stand in and Govern myself accordingly. Such a piece of Information by Post to Alexa. might do essential Service to the Officers and many poor Soldiers who have confided in me to transact this affair for them, and woud be acknowledgd as a very singular honr. conferd on

Yr. Lordships Most Obed. and Most Hble Servt.

Copy of a Letter To The Govr.[22]

[22] From a photograph of the original draft in the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library.

*To REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER

Alexandria, August 18, 1772.

Dear Sir: Harvest, Company, and one thing or another, equally unforeseen and unavoidable, has hitherto prevented Mrs. Washington and myself from paying our respects to Mrs. Boucher and you; but if nothing happens more than we at present know of, you may expect to see us the first Week in September, perhaps the middle of it. This I have mention'd, that, in case you should have any call out abt. that time you may [feel] free enough to signify it, as any other time will be equally convenient and agreeable to Dr. Sir Yr. etc.[23]

ADVERTISEMENT

To *be* Sold, Rented, or Exchanged, *for back lands in any of the northern counties in this colony,*

A Tract of six hundred acres, including about two hundred of cleared land, lying on the north side of *Rappahannock* river, opposite to the lower end of *Fredericksburg.* On this tract (a little above the road) is one of the most agreeable situations for a house that is to be found on the whole river, having a clear and distinct view of almost every house in the said Town, and every vessel that passes to and from it. Long credit, if preferred, will be given, the purchaser paying interest from the sale, and an indisputable title will be made [*sic*]. For further particulars enquire of Col. Lewis in *Fredericksburg,* or the subscriber in *Fairfax.* GEORGE WASHINGTON.[24]

[23] The text is from a facsimile in *Lettres Autographes composant la collection de Madame G. Whitney Hoff* (Paris: 1934). The word in brackets was, probably, inserted by Washington in pencil and does not show in the facsimile, but there is a caret at this point in the original.

[24] From a mutilated copy of the *Williamsburg Gazette* of October, 1772.

*To SAMUEL WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, December 3, 1772.

Dear Brother: I was in great hopes to have met with you at Fredericksburg, or seen you at this place in your way up but it would almost seem as if you had foresworn this part of the Country.

I have taken the liberty of troubling you with the Inclosed Letter to Doctr. Briscoe, and beg that you will take a Copy of it, and serve him with the original when it happens to suit your convenience. I have also by Colo. Fairfax, wrote to Colo. Stephen respecting our Lands over the Mountains, desiring the former if he should not see the latter himself to send the Letter to your care which I beg may be contrivd to him by a safe hand.

If you have heard what is done in Kennedy's Replevy please to let me know as I fancy the three Months must now be expired. I was glad to hear by Charles that you still entertaind some thoughts of coming down this Winter, but as I have met with so many disappointments I shall never expect till I see you; My Love, in wch. Mrs. Washington &ca. joins is offerd to yr. self my Sister and Family and I am, etc. [H.L.]

*To REVEREND JONATHAN BOUCHER

Mount Vernon, January 7, 1773.

Dear Sir: From the best enquiries I could make whilst I was in, and about Williamsburg I cannot think William and Mary College a desirable place to send Jack Custis to; the Inattention of the Masters, added to the number of Hollidays, is the Subject of general complaint; and affords no pleasing prospect to a youth who has a good deal to attain, and but a short while to do it in. These considerations, added to a desire of withdrawing the mind of my Ward as much as possible from the objects

which seem at present to have engrossd too much of his Attention; and moreover, to give him every advantage which is to be derivd from the best Publick Schools we have here (as there no longer seems to be any thoughts of his crossing the Atlantic) I have I think, determind to send him to the Philadelphia College; which, from the best Information I have been able to get, from those who have been educated themselves there, or have Children at it, stands equally fair with any other, and being nearer, is more agreeable to his Mother. About the middle of March (so that I may return in time for the April Court) is the time I have thought of to carry him there; previous to which I should be very glad to consult Mr. Smith the President (with whom I have some small acquaintance) on the terms it is proper for him to enter College; and were you, my good Sir, to do him and me the favour of having this matter adjusted by communicating your opinion by Letter, either to Mr. Smith directly, or indirectly through me, of his proficiency in the Classics and other branches of knowledge, it would be an acceptable Service, at the sametime that it might be proper to know, whether it would be best for him to take Chambers in the College, or board in the City, for as I am extreamly anxious to have his Education advanced, I could wish to have him so placed as to promote it. Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis joins me in wishing you, Mrs. and Miss Boucher the Compliments of the Season, and the Return of many happy new Years. I am, etc.[25]

To FIELDING LEWIS

Mount Vernon, April 20, 1773.

Dear Sir: As it would be very inconvenient to me to set out for New York as soon as I returned from Williamsburg, I have

[25] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Maggs Bros., of London.

resolved to postpone my journey to the last mentioned place, and of course to give you the trouble of doing my business there; I have therefore by the bearer, Inclos'd you some Bonds, and orders for money, which I beg the favour of you to receive for me. The account against Mr. Mattw. Whiting Mr. Montgomerie is to pay, as you may see by my Letter to him, left open for your perusal. Should Mr. Montgomerie contrary to my expectation, refuse to allow for the loss I sustaind by my Brothr. Charles's receivg 340 Dollars at 6/. please to take care of the papers which contains a List of the different kinds of money in his own handwriting, as it was paid, for I am determined not to submit to it; as Mr. Montgomerie, after neglecting to pay the money in Williamsburg, had no right to impose Dollars at that value. Whatever sum you receive from him, on acct. of Mr. Whiting's Bond, will go towards lessening my claim upon Armistead's Estate, which you may see by the Inclosed Acct. and Protest, and which I beg the favour of you to endeavour to receive for me. Messrs. Buckner's Bond (Inclosd) is accompanied by a Letter to them, pressing payment of the money to you, as I have very urgent occasion for what money I can collect. You also have a Letter to Colo. Bannister requesting him to pay you £32.10; and I have wrote to young Mr. Edmd. Pendleton, and also to Colo. Carter Braxton (one of Colo. Bernd. Moore's Trustees) and to Mr. Armistead for £401.11.0 sterlg. due from the said Moore's Estate for Intt. of the Bond to which Colo. Baylor was Security; and hope that it will be paid, as I have informd them that the Bond will be put in Suit without. I have some hopes likewise, that Mr. John Fry (or Mr. John Nicholas in his behalf) will pay you the sum of £31.0.4 which he stands indebted to me for his proportion of the expenses of Patenting the Ohio Lands, and I should be obliged to you to ask Mr. Norton if Mr. Thruston has not desired him to pay

£12.1.9 on the same acct., and to receive it if he did. Mr. Thruston informs me that he has desired Mr. Norton to pay this sum to me at this Court. Should you go over to Gloucester, or, if there is any Body that does business in Wmsburg for your Brother, please to know if it will be convenient to pay the £40 due last October for the Interest of his Bond, and ask Mr. Hill for what money he collects for me. Out of which several Sums please to pay the following Drafts, which I expect will be there against me (or you in my stead), Mr. Hodge for a servant (Gardner) bought of him £35 Cy., Mr. Robt. Washington £60 in part for the two Negroes mentioned in my last, bought of him. The rest of the money be so good as to bring up to me, as I shall be a good deal distressed to comply with my wheat, and other engagements, if I meet with a disappointment in these several payments to you. As soon as matters in respect to them are reduced to a certainty, be so good as to write me from Wmsburg by the Post (preferable to any other conveyance, as I know where to send for these Letters) what it is I have to rely on; and, as soon as you return home, advise me thereof, that I may send for the needful. I had like to have forgot that it is possible Captn. Page (or Mr. Carr in his behalf) may demand £14.14.0 Sterlg, which I promised to pay in Apl.; if it is demanded of you, please to discharge it; if not, take no notice of it yourself; and be so good also as to receive the Inclosed small acct. at the Treasury. I have left all my Letters open, that by perusing them you may be the better acquainted with my expectations, and of course transact it with greater ease. Inclos'd you have a List of the Several Sums which I expect to receive, and pay, agreeable to the several orders; and in case I should recollect any other business, I should be obliged to you whilst in Williamsburg, to enquire at the Post office on Saturdays, for Letters, as I shall write to you by the Post if I do. I am etc.

P. S. Please to let me know by the first Post if this Letter and Papers have got safe.

N. B. I wrote the foregoing Letter in much haste, expecting to send it by a Person who, I was inform'd, would take Fredericksburg in his way to Williamsburg, a few days ago; wishing it to get to hand before you sat of on the 18th as advis'd. I now forward it by Mr. Henderson, to be delivered in Williamsburg, being disappointed in my first expectation; and have to request that, after being satisfied of the collection you will make on my acct; if the amount (when the several sums of £35 £60 £14.14 Sterl. and a further sum of £50 assumd to Wm. Crawfords order, in favr. of John Hite are paid) falls short of £300. that you will make up that sum as near as you can, by selling the Inclosd Bills, and remit it to me by Mr. Henderson; as I shall not, otherwise, receive it before my departure to New York, which is now fixed to about the 8th of next month; if you can on the other hand collect, or find you can collect, as much money as will make those payments, and furnish me with £300 besides, then, and in that case, please to return the Bills to me again; if you could contrive to provide half Joes for me (but remember there are a great number of forged ones in circulation) it would suit my present purposes best. Let me know to whom each of the within Bills are sold, if you dispose of them at all, that I may know to give advice properly. I am as before, etc.[26]

*To GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX

Mount Vernon, October 15, 1773.

Dear Sir: The Inclos'd is a copy of my last Letter sent by a Ship from Patuxent (name I know not, Mr. Calvert[27] having

[26] From the printed text in the *Magazine of American History*, III, 1, p. 111.
[27] Benedict Calvert.

undertakin to forward it); at the time of writing that Letter, it did not occur to me, to ask, if there were not Balls. upon your Books, and Bonded Debts to Collect; and if so, whether you would not choose to have them call'd in. Any directions on this head shall be executed to the best of my judgment. and I should be very glad if you would freely require, and plainly direct any services in my power to render you.

Having occasion to send Lund Washington into Loudoun I directed him to call upon Mr. Peyton [28] for what money he had of yours; he accordingly did so, and hath brought £52 which he says is all as Mr. Peyton (told him) he had, or could get; this Sum I shall remit you from Wmsburg for wch. place I expect to set of the 20th.

I shall caused the dryed Peaches and homony which Danl. Stone was directed to prepare to be put on board of Captn. Boucher addressed to the care of Mr. Athaws.[29] with this Letter Mrs. Washington joins me in best for Mrs. Fairfax and yourself and I am etc.[30]

To JOHN DAVID WOELPER

November 30, 1773.

Note. For further explanation of the above Advertisement, and better understanding the terms on which these lands will be granted, the subscriber proposes

To give Leases for the terms of Twenty-one years, or three Lives with proper Covenants for securing the Rights of each Party.

To allow an exemption of four years from payment of Rent under the provisos in the above printed advertizement (where

[28] Craven Peyton.
[29] Samuel Athawes (Athaws).
[30] From the original through the kindness of Forest G. Sweet, of Battle Creek, Mich.

no improvements are made) after which four pounds Sterling for every hundred acres contained in the Lease and proportionably for Lesser quantity to be demanded and paid in the Currency of the Country, at the exchange prevailing at the time of making such payment.

To erect within the space of Seven years from the date of the Lease, a decent dwelling House and good Barn fit for a common farmer; Plant Orchards of good fruit Trees in proportion to the quantity of Land Let; and for every Hundred Acres contained in the Tenement Improve at least five Acres into Meadow; which five Acres or the like quantity of Ground always to be kept in good Grass.[31]

*To BARTHOLOMEW DANDRIDGE

Claibornes, December 6, 1773.

Dear Sir: Upon enquiry of Davenport (who went up to the King William Office last Week) I am convinced that, Black has never receivd any conveyance at all, for the Land that was Grisley's; and I much doubt, whether he has ever receivd any for the Mill Tract. What is proper to be done under these Circumstances, I am really at a loss to determine; I think the purchase too advantageous for Mr. Custis to give up altogether, and, if there is no coming at Rights to the before mentioned Tracts (as Grisley it seems is Dead) what ought I to do? If good Rights can be had for the King and Queen Estate Woromonroke Lands (bought from Colo. Moore) and a surety can be had from Black, of procuring proper Titles to the other two, I am still willing to hold fast the Bargain; and what further,

[31] This note is added, in the writing of Washington, to one of the hand bill copies of his advertisement of Ohio lands (see Advertisement of the Ohio Lands, July 15, 1773, vol. 3, *ante*), and was sent to John David Woelpper by Washington. The hand bill was, in 1889, in the possession of Isaac Craig, of Alleghany, Pa. (Reference is in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (1889), vol. 13, p. 479).

under my present uncertainties to say, I know not; but beg of you to examine the Office thoroughly, to see if the Deeds may not be recorded altho' they do not appear upon the Alphabets. Davenport tells me that Colo. B. Moore says, his Trust Deed is recorded in the Secretary's Office, if I remember right Mr. Wythe could find no such Deed there. Was there ever such a Man as Black! Crafty and designing, and yet so stupidly ignorant, and negligent in so important a matter as this! I write this from my Qr. in very great haste and cannot add [32]

*To JOHN TAYLOE

Mount Vernon, December 10, 1773.

Dear Sir: Thinking it necessary that Mr. Montague should be advised of the steps which have been taken in consequence of the Power of Attorney wch. he Inclosed to you, Colo. Mason, and myself, I wrote the Inclosed Letter, and thought to have sent it to you from Williamsburg; but other business, and an attendance upon those with whom I had various matters to negotiate, occasion'd my neglecting it.

For the reasons assigned in the Letter (herewith sent) which might be a good deal enlarged upon, and upon consulting Mr. Waller as to the propriety, and legality of the measure, I am fully convinced of the utility of postponing the Sale of every part of the Estate till after finishing of the next Crop, which Mr. Mercer assures me will probably be large, as there is a great deal of Wheat sown in very fine Land, which shall be applied in discharge to Mr. Gravats [33] Mortgage. If therefore you shall concur with me in this opinion, and approve of the Letter in other parts, a place is left for you to Sign it, that it may be dis-

[32] End of letter is missing. The original is in the possession (1933) of W. H. De Butts, of Upperville, Va.

[33] Richard Gravat.

patchd by the first opperty. after getting to your hands. If on the other hand, you disapprove of the time of Sale, or the Letter generally, please to destroy it, and write anything else you choose.

The original Deed to Messrs. Hunter and Dick being, as Mr. Mercer says, taken out of the Secretarys Office by Mr. Thompson Mason, before it was recorded, prevented my getting an attested Copy of that, and Colo. Mercers Letter of Attorney to his Brother whilst I was down; but I have requested Mr. James Mercer to furnish me with these Papers as soon as possible, in order that they may be forwarded to Mr. Montague

I have only my best respect to add to Mrs. Tayloe, and to assure you that I am etc.[34]

*To ANGUS McDONALD

Mount Vernon, January 28, 1774.

Sir: Inclosed you have a Certificate of your having served as an Officer in the Virginia Regiment; as to your Services in the Militia I have nothing at all to do with them, and am pretty sure they will not be allowed. at least this is my private opinion. the Governor however is, unless he chooses to advise with the Council, the sole judge of these matters, and from him only, can you be satisfied in respect to those claims.

I shall take it exceedingly kind of you to Rent my Land on Potomack River (above the Warmsprings) upon the best terms you can, either from year to year, or for a term of years, not exceeding five; and that you would moreover, do me the further favour to receive the Rents; otherwise I dare say, I never shall be the better of a Tenant there; for doing both which, that

[34] From a photostat of the original kindly loaned by Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell, of Lloyds, Va., through Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

is to engage the place, and receive the Rent, this Letter shall be your Sufficient power and Authority, and may in any case be produced as such from Sir Yr. etc.

PS. My Certificate Inclosd, only serves to authorize you to apply to the Govr. for a Warrant, as it is from him you are to receive the order of Survey.[35]

*To JAMES WOOD

Mount Vernon, February 20, 1774.

Dear Sir: I have to thank you, for your obliging acct. of your trip down the Mississipi, containd in a Letter of the 18th. of Octobr. from Winchester; the Other Letter, therein referd to, I have never yet received, nor did this come to hand till some time in November, as I was returning from Williamsburg.

The contradictory Accts. given of the Land upon the Mississipi are really astonishing; some speak of the Country as a terrestrial Paradise, whilst others represent it as scarce fit for any thing, but Slaves and Brutes. I am well satisfied however from your description of it that I have no cause to regret my disappointment. The Acct. of Lord Hilsboroughs Sentiments of the Proclamation of 1763, I can view in no other light than as one, among many other proofs, of his Lordships malignant disposition towards us poor Americans; founded equally in Malice, absurdity, and error; as it would have puzzled this noble Peer, I am perswaded, to have assignd any plausable reason in support of this opinion.

As I do not know but I may shortly see you in Frederick, and assuredly shall up at the Assembly, I shall add no more than that, it will always give me pleasure to see you at this place

[35] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Hunter McDonald, of Nashville, Tenn.

whenever it is convenient to you, and that with Complimts. to your good Mother I remain etc.[36]

*To JOHN TAYLOE

Mount Vernon, October 31, 1774.

Dear Sir: As I return'd late last Night from Philadelphia, It will not be in my power, with any sort of convenience, to attend the Assembly (in case of its setting, which, as I have heard nothing of the Governors return, seems doubtful) till after the Sale of Colo Mercers Estates; and therefore, as I can have no oppertunity of seeing you before, permit me to hope, and indeed press you, to be there, as many things may, and doubtless will happen, to render your advice and assistance absolutely necessary. In short, as the times are ticklish, I shall be very unwilling to take the whole burthen of this Trust upon myself, and to delay the Sale, after such long, and full notice of it, will be improper, and no doubt injurious. please to bring what Letters, and Papers you are possess'd of relative to this business, as I have not receivd a Letter, or heard a Tittle from Mr. Montagu, since that one Inclosing the Power of Attorney 18 Months ago. I am etc.[37]

*To JOHN TAYLOE

Shannondoah, November 30, 1774.

Dear Sir: I was sorry to find by your favr. of the 16th. Instt. that I was not likely to receive any assistance from you in the Sale of Colo. Mercers Estate, and was equally concern'd at

[36] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Will B. Davis, of Washington, D. C.

[37] From a photostat of the original kindly loaned by Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell, of Lloyds, Va., through Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

the cause of it. We closed the matter this day to the amount of £1412.0.2. which is a greater Sale than I expected, as there were only 90 instead of 110 Negroes, and a proportionate difficiency of Horses and stock; and few or no Plantation utensils; the Land in this County (that is Frederick) sold for much less than it was valued at in the year 1767; and yet, I do not think it sold much under the intrinsic worth, as there is a good deal of exceeding poor and broken ground in it. Colo. Mercer, and the Mortgagees, will, I doubt not, be a good deal surprized to find this Land valued at so much more in the year 1767 than it would sell for at this day; but there was no help for it; everything that could be done, was done, to dispose of it to the best advantage; in attempting which, I had three Lots of the Land (by endeavouring to raise them) left upon my hands. The Negros, Horses, and Stock, have all sold exceeding high; and we have done every thing in our powers to secure payment at the day; but yet I am far from expecting punctuallity, or even from thinking there may not be some Insolvency's, although I have taken every precaution in my power to get good Security to the respective Bonds.

In the purchase of Bills (when Cash is receivd for this purpose) every precaution, no doubt, will be taken to get those which are esteem'd good, but I will never, by any Indorsation of mine, make my Estate liable to be rent and torn to pieces, if they should prove otherwise. I return, inclosed, the Letters you sent me from Colo. Mercer; and with hopes, that you are by this, perfectly recovered, I am with, best respects to Mrs. Tayloe and the Family Dr Sir etc.[38]

[38] From a photostat of the original kindly loaned by Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell, of Lloyds, Va., through Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

*MEMORANDUM FOR FIELDING LEWIS

April 30, 1775.

To receive and pay Money agreeable to the List and orders herewith furnished.

If Messrs. Balfour and Barraud should, contrary to all expectation neglect to pay me for my Flour, agreeable to contract, I shall be very much distress'd, as I must, at all events (if you even receive but as much Money) pay Mr. Brent, Mr. Mazzei and the £10 to the Treasurer. The other Sums must be the last paid.

I had, at the Meeting in Richmond, a Bill of Exchange from Mr. Thos. Newton drawn by Ingles & Long in favr. of one Wm. Hodgzard for £100 Sterlg. at 27½ pr. Ct. Excha: but the Exchange was to be regulated at the April Meeting. if it should therefore, be under 27½ please to receive the Difference.

The Bill you receivd from Colo. Syme, in June last for Colo. Fairfax, is come back. He promised at Richmond that he would endeavour to take it up this Meeting, please to remind him of it; the Bills are herewith sent.

If you should not have an Oppy. of seeing Mr. Jno. Armistead, speak to young Mr. Edd. Pendleton abt. my Claim on him on Acct. of his Fathers Estate and as Exr. to Colo. Baylor.

You will please to ask Mr. Walker if it be necessary for the Power of Attorney herewith sent to be recorded, if it is, in what manner it can be done, and put it into the hands of the most likely person to accomplish it in York, or James City Court. I imagine it will do in either.

If you should see any of Atthawess. Captns. in Williamsbg. please to inform them. or Athaws's. Agent there, that Colo. Fairfax has 6 Hhds of Tobo. at Colchester ready to be delivered when sent for. the Inspectors having Orders for this purpose.

If you should see the Exrs. of Mr. Jno. Page, be so good as to try to get a fresh Bond with Security, if they do not Incline to discharge the old. I have not been used well in this affair. Mr. Page on Novr. 1773 ask'd me to lend him £300 Sterg. to complt., or make some very advantageous purchase of Land near, or adjoing. him; I assurd him very truely, that I had not a farthing of my own to lend, and that I did not care to part with Mr. Custis's. He press'd, and press'd again; assuring me that if I would draw for that Sum he would replace it in April. I told him, I had often refus'd very particular friends, who would take it amiss if I should grant to others, what had been refus'd them; but at last, on his solemn assurance of replacing the Money in a few Months, I consented to draw, and contrary to my expectation he gave me a Bond without any Security, because he would not, he said, let it be known that I had lent the Money. In April I heard nothing abt. the return of the Money, and before October he died; so that, if his Affairs (as I have been told they are) should be in a bad way, the Money stands unsecured; which is the reason of my giving you the trouble to call upon the Exrs. for a fresh Bond at this time.

Please to contrive Mr. Armisteads Letter to him before, or as you go down, as I believe he is seldom in Wmsburg himself.

[H.L.]

*To THE FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMITTEE

Philadelphia, May 16, 1775.

Gentn: If I could have communicated any thing by the last Post certain and satisfactory, I should most assuredly have done it agreeable to my promise, but the only articles of Intelligence which came to my hands were containd in the Gazetees, and went regularly to you. This is pretty much the case at present, and leaves me little to add, as the Congress are again under the

Tye of Secrecy in respect to their proceedings till the business is finished, or particular parts of it published by order; the principal design therefore of my writing to you at this time, and under these circumstances is, to recommend strongly, in case a Convention of the Virga. Delegates should be calld (as the Treasurer has been advis'd to do) in my absence, that some other person may be chosen Pro: tem to serve in my Room;[39] in order that, the County may, at this important Crisis, be fully represented; the necessity of a full, and able Representation at such a juncture as this, must be too obvious to need a Comment, or words to enforce the recommendation.

We have a very full Congress, and I flatter myself that great unanimity will prevail among the Members of it. The Colony of New York is said, not only to be hearty, but zealous in the cause. I wish, and I hope it may be so, but, as I never entertaind a very high opinion of your sudden repentances, I will suspend my opinion till the arrival of the Troops there.

The Provencial Congress of the Massachusetts bay have voted 13,600 Men, the other Governments of New Engd. have followed their example in proportionate numbers, and the Troops at Boston are confind within the Neck by about 9000 of them, Intrenchd, by which means all Communication between the Town and Country is cut off, and the Army and Inhabitants of Boston, it is said, somewhat distressed for Provisions. We have no late Accts. from thence; but it is supposed Genl. Gage will keep close till he receives his reinforcemt., to consist, our Accts. says of abt. 2000 Men and to be expected the last of this month. What he will then do, time only can tell. The Depositions taken after the Action at Lexington I inclose you, when oppy. offers please to forwd. a Copy or two into the back Counties.

As Mr. Milnor has just given notice that he shall set out at One clock this day instead of tomorrow (as I expected) I am

[39] Fairfax delegate to the Convention.

obligd to write in more haste than I otherwise should have done, I am etc.[40] [MS. H. S.]

To SAMUEL WASHINGTON

[Camp at Cambridge, July 20, 1775.]

Dear Brothr: Agreeable to your request I am now set down to write to you, although in the first place I have scarce time to indulge inclination of the kind, and in the next place I do not know how, or whether it may ever get to your hands.

I came to this place the 3d instant and found a numerous army of Provincials under very little command, discipline or order. I found an enemy who had drove our People from Bunker's Hill strongly Intrenching and from accts had reason to expect before this, another attack from them; but as we have been incessantly (Sundays not excepted) employed in throwing up works of defense, I rather begin to believe now that they think it rather a dangerous experiment; and that we shall remain sometime watching the motions of each other, at the distance of little more than a mile and in full view. From the best accts we have been able to get the number of the Enemy amounts to between 10 and 12,000 men; part of which are in Boston, and part on Bunker Hill just by, our numbers including sick, absent &c are between 16 and 18,000; but then, having great extent of lines and many places to defend and not knowing where the attack may be made (as they have the entire command of the water and can draw their whole force to any one point in an hour or twos time without any person but the Commanding officer who directs it having the least previous notice of it) our Situation is a little unfavourable, but not so bad but that I think we can give them a pretty warm reception if

[40] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of David M. Matteson, of Cambridge, Mass.

they think proper to make any advances towards us; their situation is such as to secure them from any attack of ours.

By what we can learn they are sadly distressed for want of fresh provisions. Beef (The milch cows in Boston) sells from one shilling to 18d sterling per lb. Mutton higher, and these only to be had for the sick. The number of those killed and wounded in the engagement on Bunker Hill could not fall short of 1100, ours did not exceed 400, a few more such victories would put an end to the present contest.

The village I am in is situated in the midst of a very delightful Country, and is a very beautiful place itself though small; a thousand pities that such a country should become the theater of war; a month from this day will bring on some Capital change I expect; for if the enemy are not able to penetrate into the Country, they may as well one would think, give up the point and retreat home; for if they stay at Boston and Bunkers Hill; and separated by a small Ferry, Charlestown which is part of the Neck; I say if they stay at those places forever the end for which they were sent cannot be accomplished; and to compel them to remain there is the principal object we have in view; indeed the only.

We have seen nothing of the riflemen yet, nor have we heard anything certain of them. I have only time to add my love to my Sister and the family and to assure you that I with unfeigned regard and truth Dr Sir etc.

P. S. In the late Ingagemt of the 17th ulto the enemy by the best accts we can get had 1040 Men killed and wounded, 92 were officers; our loss amounted to 139 killed, 278 wounded and 36 missing. Pray remember me kindly to Mr. Warner Washington and Family when you see them.[41]

[41] From the text printed in *The New York Sun*, Apr. 8, 1931.

*To ANTHONY WHITE

Camp at Cambridge, August 25, 1775.

Dear Sir: Your favours of the 31st. Ulto, and 1st. Instt. I have had the honour to receive; and you may believe me sincere, when I assure you, that it will give me pleasure to shew any kind of civility in my power to your Son,[42] whose modest deportment richly entitles him to it. I am under some kind of Ingagement to a very worthy Gentleman[43] of my acquaintance in Virginia to appoint him one of my Aid de Camps; or more properly, I had wrote to him on this subject, his answer not received, should he decline the offer, as I know he is much engaged in other business, I shall, with pleasure, take your Son into my Family in that Capacity. in the meanwhile, I shall be happy in making his time as agreeable as possible to him whilst he remains in the Camp

In respect to Mr. Dunham, I thought it but a piece of candour to inform him, that I saw but little prospect of his getting an Imployment in his profession here upon which I believe he has changed his Plan. As I am almost always in a hurry, myself, and as I do not doubt but your Son will give you an Acct. of every remarkable occurance which happens In this Camp, I shall only add my best respects to your good Lady and family, and that I am with great esteem Dr Sir Yr. etc. [H. L.]

To THE NEW YORK LEGISLATURE

Camp at Cambridge, October 13, 1775.

Sir: I am to thank you for your Favour of the 4th. Instt. inclosing the Advices from England of 26t. July and 8. August.

A few Days ago I apprized the Committee of New York of the sailing of a small Fleet from Boston with Artillery to bom-

[42] Anthony Walton White. (See Washington's letter to Anthony White (vol. 4, p. 50).

[43] Robert Hanson Harrison.

bard a Town. I did not then know that the Provincial Congress was sitting or the Advice would have been directed to them. I now Sir, beg Leave to acquaint you that the Fleet then mentioned has been seen standing N.N.E. So that we apprehend it is destined against some Town on the Coast of this Province, New Hampshire, or perhaps to Quebec.

We have no Occurence in the Camp worthy of Notice: Both Sides are making all Preparation for Winter.

I am with the most respectful Regards to the Provincial Congress, Sir Your etc.[44] [H. L.]

*To JOHN TAYLOE

Camp at Cambridge, December 11, 1775.

Dear Sir: In a Letter which I have receiv'd from Mr. Lund Washington dated the 24th. Ulto are these Words: "I got a Letter the other day from Mr Mercer wherein he says that Colo. Tayloe and *himself* thinks that the Money due upon Bond for the Sale of Colo. Mercers Estate, or at least all those Bonds that are due from Maryland, or near here, should be paid to me; those in Berkley, Frederick &c to Mr. Mercer; as he was going up there and that they would Advertise the People of it"

It is sometime ago since I desird Mr. Washington to deliver all the Bonds; and every paper in my possession relative to the Sale of Colo. Mercer's Estate, and the Power under which we acted to you; either in person, or to your written order as I found it would not be in my power to return to Virginia this Fall, and consequently utterly impossible for me to be of any further assistance to Colo. Mercer and his Mortgagees. This he informs me he has done. From hence forward then the matter rests wholely with you. But as a friend to you, to Colo. Mercer, and to Mr. James Mercer, I must express my entire

[44] The original L. S. is in the writing of Joseph Reed.

disapprobation of the latter's having any share in the Collection of those Debts arising from the Sale of the Estate. I am surprizd indeed at Mr. Mercers wishing to have any hand in it, notwithstanding I firmly believe he means well, and to save expences by it as there is, in my opinion, a striking Impropriety in it. for you will please to consider Sir, that it was from the great dislike which Colo. Mercer and his Mortgagees had to the conduct of Mr. Jas. Mercer (tho I think very undeservedly) and from a suspicion of his unfair dealing, that the Estate was taken out of his hands, and our Powers arose. Would you then suffer that very Estate, after it is converted into Cash and in the most dangerous Situation it can be touched to return into his hands again? especially after knowing that he has a capitol claim upon it which he wants to secure in preference to other Debts the priority of which are contended for? I really think that this Step, if taken, will be improper; highly offensive to our Constituents, and may Involve difficulties unforeseen, and unintended at present.

I would not be understood to cast any Reflections on Mr. James Mercer, I have no reason to do it, his conduct throughout the whole of this business has appeared to me in an exceeding fair point of view, but the temptation is too great to let a Man play the whole game himself. In other Words, to put it in his power to apply money to the discharge of one Debt in which he is Capitolly concern'd, instead of remitting it to discharge another in which he is not Interested at all. In short Sir, after having declared that I can no longer consider myself as Colo. Mercers Attorney it is presumptions to give my opinion of this matter so freely, and yet, as I wish a happy conclusion to it, I shall take the liberty of suggesting, whether it would not be better to appoint Colo. Francis Peyton to Collect the whole of these Debts as he was at the Sale, privy to every transaction attending it. acquainted with the People, Centrical, and wd. I dare say

upon Mr. Mercers application undertake it for a small compensation. As to Mr. Lund Washington's collecting a Part it would be injurious to him, and me, unless the Money was brought to him, he therefore must be an Improper person for this business, and I hope will not be thought of for the purpose.

I have no doubt but that you, my good Sir, as well as others, are wondering how it happens that two Armies almost in Stones throw of each other should keep so long from action. I can account for it in few Words, there Situation is such (being on two Peninsula's very strongly fortified and surrounded by Ships of War and Floating Batteries) that we cannot get to them and they do not choose to come to us. This being the case we have spent the Summer in drawing Lines of Circumvalation round them, cutting of all Supplies of fresh Provisions by Land; and, latterly by Water; For finding no great prospect of a visit from them, I fitted out (in behalf of the Continent) Six armed Vessells; with which we have Interscepted their Provision Boats from Nova Scotia and Canada, and taken some others from G. Britain and the West Indies with Stores for the use of the Garrison, to the amount it is apprehended of near £20,000 Sterg. Except this few occurances have happened, not communicated in the publick Gazettes, worth noticing. My best respects to Mrs. Tayloe and the Family, as also to your good Neighbours of Sabine Hall.[45] I am etc.

PS. As I am inform'd that the Attorney General[46] has left the Colony, in other words given it up, query whether some other Attorney ought not to be Imployed to prosecute the Orders, and desires of Colo. Mercer and his Mor'gagees. Yrs. &ca.[47]

[45] The Landon Carters.

[46] John Randolph.

[47] From a photostat of the original kindly loaned by Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell, of Lloyds, Va., through Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

In the *Henley-Smith Papers* in the Library of Congress is a passport (in the writing of Stephen Moylan and dated Jan. 1, 1776), signed by Washington, requiring all committees of safety and all others to assist the officers who are conveying Moses Kirkland to the Continental Congress for examination.

To PAYMASTER GENERAL JAMES WARREN

Cambridge, January 28, 1776.

Dr. Sir: I quite forgot to enquire last night (when you were shewing me the Militia Pay Rolls) at what rates the officers pay was charged. I am willing to allow them the same pay as the Troops here had, and have; that is, to the first of Jany. agreeable to the old Establishment; (more I cannot); and For the month of Jany. according to the present pay. This is putting of them in all respects upon a footing with the Continental Army. You will consider therefore how far this alteration will square with your mode of making up the Pay Rolls, as the manner of charging and extending the Sums appear clear upon the face of the acct. I must again desire you to request the Captains to be very correct in making up their accts. not only because they are to Swear to them, but because I must for my own justification have all the extensions, and additions tryed [*sic*]. Should any of them therefore prove wrong, they will not only give themselves a good deal of trouble and delay for nothing, but me also; and I must again desire that they may be cautioned against Including Men that have Inlisted into the Continental Service, as I will take a good deal of pains to prevent, and if not prevented, to detect an Evil, which I am apprehensive will be practiced.

If I recollect the Roll you showed me last Night, Men of the same Company and as I suppose from the same Town, are charged a different number of days, whereas I think the Ingagement is, that they are to be paid from the time of their Marching from the Town; however as I was ingaged in Reading Letters and News Papers at the time, I might have mistaken the matter.

As I understand the Muster Rolls of these Companies (from N Hampshire) are lodged with you should be glad to receive them with your Acct. of the money expended. If the Mileage is

drawn for in the manner proposed by you, the Comy,[48] should be apprized of it, as he told me some of the Militia Captns. with out distinguishing of which Government, were applying to settle with him. I am etc.

P. S. If you are not ingaged I should be glad of your Company at Dinner at 2 o'clock.[49]

To THE OFFICER COMMANDING ON THE LINES

Camp at Cambridge, March 1, [1776].

Sir: A Gentleman or two from Maryland, having some business of importance to negotiate at the Lines, have applied for, and been refused leave to attend personally; but I have indulged them in letting Colo. Mifflin go, a meeting with whom being desired by Major Small, on some business he thinks, relative to the Prisoners at Philadelphia.

Let none but the officer of the Guard, or one of your aids go down with Colo. Mifflin. I am etc.

[Give] Gridley and Baldwin notice of this that I may not be detained when I come down.[50]

*To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD

Cambridge, March 3, 1776.

Sir: My Letter of last Night[51] would inform you that the Genl. Officers at this place thought it dangerous to delay taking Post on Dorchester Hills, least they should be possess'd before us by the Enemy, and therefore Involve us in difficulties which we should not know how to extricate ourselves from; this opin-

[48] Commissary.

[49] From a typed copy of the original in the Harvard Trust Co., of Cambridge, Mass., through the kindness of Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart.

[50] From a typed copy of the original through the kindness of Godfrey A. S. Wilners, of College Point, N. Y.

[51] See vol. 4, p. 363, *ante*, for this letter to Ward.

ion they were Inclind to adopt from belief, indeed almost a certain knowledge, of the Enemys being appris'd of our designs that way.

You should make choice of some good Regiments to go on the Morning after the Post is taken, under the Command of General Thomas; the number of Men you shall judge necessary for this Relief may be orderd. I should think from two, to three thousand, as circumstances may require, would be enough. I shall send you from hence two Regiments, to be at Roxbury early on Tuesday Morning to strengthen your Lines, and I shall send you to morrow Evening two Companies of Rifflemen, which with the three now there, may be part of the Relief to go on with Genl. Thomas. these Five Companies may be placed under the care of Captn. Hugh Stephenson, subject to the Command of the Officer Commanding at the Post (Dorchester). they will I think be able to gald the Enemy sorely in their March from their Boats and in Landg.

A Blind along the Causey should be thrown up, if possible, while the other work is about; especially on the Dorchester side, as that is nearest the Enemy's Guns, and most exposed. We calculated I think, that 800 Men would do the whole Causey with great ease in a Night, if the Marsh has not got bad to Work again, and the tide gives no great Interruption. 250 Axe men I should think would soon Fell the Trees for the Abettes, but what number it may take to get them, the Fascines, Chandeliers &ca. in place I know not. 750 Men (the Working Party carrying their Arms) will I should think be sufficient for a Covering Party. this to be Posted on Nuke Hill. on the little hill front of the 2d. hill, looking in to Boston Bay, and near the point opposite the Castle. Sentries to be kept between the Parties, and some on the backside, looking towards Squantum.

As I have a very high opinion of the defence which may be made with Barrels from either of the Hills, I could wish you

to have a number [sent] over. Perhaps single Barrels would be better than linking of them together, being less liable to accidents; the Hoops should be well Naild or else they will soon fly, and the Casks fall to Pieces.

You must take care that the Necessary notice is given to the Militia agreeable to the plan settld. with General Thomas. I shall desire Colo. Gridley and Colo. Knox to be over tomorrow to lay out the Work. I recollect nothing more at present to mention to you; you will settle matters with the Officers with you, as what I have hear said is intended rather to convey my Ideas generally, than wishing them to be adhered to strictly. I am etc. [MS. H. S.]

*To JOHN TAYLOE

Cambridge, March 12, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have just had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 6th. Instt. and am very glad to find by it that you, Mrs. Tayloe and Family, are well.

I do not know a better hand than Colo. Francis Peyton to collect the Money due to the Sales of Colo. Mercers Estate, when collected, if the Situation of affairs will admit of any Intercourse with Great Britain I think the Bills may be made payable under good Indorsers to the Mortgagees, agreeable to the Power of Attorney under which we acted. As it never was my Intention to charge Colo. Mercer, or the Mortgagees any Commission for the trouble I took in the matter (unless something unknown to me at present should cast up) so, on the other hand I never intended to make myself, or Estate liable for Protested Bills. I see no propriety or justice in it, if every precaution wch. prudence dictates, is taken in the purchase of Bills, no more can be expected. no more will I do.

What Lawyer to advise you to engage in the Room of the Attorney Genl. I know not, you are much better acquainted with the Abilities of the Gentlemen at your Bar than I am, and know better how to chuse. Mr. Mercer it cannot possible be, because he is a party, and I believe has engaged both Mr. Pendleton and Mr. Wythe on his Side. the person next in reputation (if those Gentlemen are retaind) should meet our choice; and him, as above, you can better point out than I can.

All my Military Operations have been so restraind for want of Powder, that little has been done to effect till within these eight days; when determining to take Post on Dorchester Neck (South of Boston, and with our other Works in a manner encircling of it) I found it necessary to draw of the Enemys attention from that spot as much as possible; in order to this, and at the sametime to harrass them, I began on Saturday Night the 2d. Instt. a Canonade and Bombardment of Boston, continu'd it on Sunday Night, and on Monday Night without the least Intermission, during which time (that is on Monday Night) I began my Works on Dorchester, and had so effectually diverted their attention from my main design that before Morning we were so securely fixed as to bid them defiance, however upon discovering what we were about the next Morning, they made great preparation to come out and attack the Work, and had Imbarkd 3000 Men in Transports for the purpose; whilst all their light Infantry and Grenadiers were to have Imbark'd in Flat bottomd Boats to their aid, but a storm which arose, or an appearance which they liked not, in our preparation to receive them, occasioned a disimbarkation and now they are preparing with the utmost precipitation to quit the Town; for what other place time only can tell; but as New York is most likely to be their object, I shall endeavour to meet them there. Our loss in this whole Canonade has been 6 killed and about

as many wounded. theirs we know not, except that Six Men in one Barrack, and by one Ball, had all their Legs taken off. Mrs. Washington joins me in respectful Complimts. to Mrs. Tayloe, yourself and Family, and to yr. good Neighbours at Sabine Hall. I am etc.[52]

*To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD

Cambridge, March 24, 1776.

Sir: I shall be obliged to you to send the Inclosed Letter to Colo. Quincy,[53] either to Night, or early in the Morning. As these favourable Winds do not waft the fleet from Nantasket, my Suspicion's are more and more roused. I wish therefore the Fire Rafts talked of by Colo. Tupper, could be attempted in a Windy, or dark Night, I think this would discover their designs if no other good effect resulted from it. I am etc.

[MS. H. S.]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD

Providence, April 6, 1776.

Sir: I have given such instructions to Mr. Park[54] the assistant Quarter Master General that if he pays a proper attention to them you will have Little trouble, with his department, however I would recommend to you to keep him attentive to his duty, and as it is probable he may want more money to defray the necessary expences, of the Army you will grant him a warrant, for what he may have occasion for, I shall Sett off this evening for Norwich, there is a Letter inclosing a Key for Mr.

[52] From a photostat of the original kindly laoned by Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell, of Lloyds, Va., through Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

[53] Josiah Quincy. (See Washington's lette rto Josiah Quincy, March 24, 1776 (vol 4, p. 421).

[54] Maj. John Parke.

Austin, which I pray you will forward to him on receipt, there were a great number of Kettles and other articles belonging to the Camp Laying about Roxborough Church, your hinting to Mr. Parke that great Care shoud be had of these things, may be of Service. I am, etc.[55]

To THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

New York, May 9, 1776.

Sir: When I was on the Road from Cambridge to this Place, I received a Letter from a Gentleman who subscribed it, *Le Baron de Calbiac*. He therein mentions that he was a Captain of Dragoons in the French Service, that he comes to offer his Service to the United Colonies, that he attempted to come about the latter End of November, was taken by an English Frigate commanded by Capt. Young with 160 Fusees and 20 Barrels of Powder, that he got his Liberty thro the Friendship of Captn. Young, got to Dominique, from thence to Guadaloupe, took Passage again on Board of a Vessel bound to Philadelphia or New London, which by contrary Winds was obliged to put into Bedford Harbour to the Eastward. He has a Pass from the Governor of Guadaloupe, which gives him his Title. He desires a Line to you from me, and what I have mentioned is all I know of the Bearer. I am etc.[56]

To REVEREND WILLIAM GORDON

New York, May 13, 1776.

. . . No matter from what cause your promptness to work proceeded, whether from the Salem acc't of an Invasion, or the

[55] In the writing of Stephen Moylan. From a facsimile of the original in the Frederick S. Peck Collection, of Barrington, R. I.

[56] The text is from President John Hancock's letter-book, transferred to the Library of Congress from the Massachusetts Historical Society.

general Plan of Security; which common prudence rendered obviously necessary for the preservation of every capital place. If the work is done, I will not quarrel about the motives, for you may be assured it was no small degree of vexation to me, to hear (as I did from various hands) of the slothful manner in which they were executing. I could not help writing to Gen' Ward[57] on this Subject, and roundly to the Engineer,[58] under whose conduct the Fortifications were going on . . . It is but too common for Men under accusation to endeavour to exculpate themselves by charging others. I would therefore ask, if Gen'l W——[59] is judged an improper person to Command five Regiments in a peaceable Camp, or Garrison, (for in truth I did not, nor do not, expect any further attempt will be made upon Boston) why was he appointed to the first Military Command in the Massachusetts Government? by whom was he appointed in the first Instance? and by whom supported in the next? Could I think the Second Officer in Command; an Officer of their own Creating, an improper person to Intrust the immediate defence of the Government to, admitting that active Scenes were like to follow. If on the other hand they were not, and my opinion had coincided with theirs respecting Gen'l W—— was it not prudent in me to bring active officers into active service? consider the matter in either point of view then and I think reason will acquit me, but free People will judge freely, and I do not condemn them for it, it is the only way to bring matters to a fair discussion. . . .

We have not been idle since I came here, nor were they before. Many capital works of defence are Erected, and others Erecting. Ten or twelve days [more will, I think, put us in a respectable posture for defending this City and the passage of

[57] See Washington's letter to Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward, May 9, 1776 (vol. 5, p. 25).
[58] See Washington's letter to Col. Richard Gridley, Apr. 28, 1776 (vol. 4, p. 528).
[59] General Ward.

the North River. Our force tho', I should add, is considerable reduced by the two Brigades which have been sent to Canada; consisting of ten of our strongest Regiments, undr. the Command of Genls. Sullivan and Thompson.

The fortunate discovery, of the Intentions of Ministry, in Lord George Germains Letter to Govr. Eden is to be Rank'd among many other signal Interpositions of Providence, and must serve to inspire every reflecting Mind with Confidence. No Man has a more perfect Reliance on the alwise, and powerful dispensations of the Supreme Being than I have nor thinks his aid more necessary. the favourable Sentiments you say the Gentlemen of Providence are pleased to entertain of me are exceedingly flattering, and when by an attentive observance, and discharge of my duty I can acquire the good wishes and prayers of our American Friends I shall think myself] double happy; happy in their good opinion, happy; in a conscious Integrity . . .[60]

To JOHN JAY

Head Quarters, June 29, 1776.

Genl. Washington presents his complimts. to Mr. Livingston[61] and Mr. Jay; thanks them most cordially for their kind Information and Invitation; but is so exceedingly hurried just at this time, that it is not in his power to attend the examination of G. Forbes.[62] He begs it may go on, and will take it exceedingly kind if Forbes and the examination when taken, be sent to head Quarters at half after four o'clock, when the General will have an officer or two present to question him, and com-

[60] From the extracts printed in an auction catalogue, 1937. The portion in brackets is facsimiled therein from the original, which is entirely in the writing of Washington.

[61] Robert R. Livingston.

[62] Gilbert Forbes, a gunsmith of New York City.

pare his answers with the information given Mr. Livingston and Mr. Jay.[63]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, New York, July 8, 1776.

Sir: Your favour of yesterday with the Inclosures is received.

Col. Puttnam went over yesterday and after doing what is necessary at Bergin will proceed to Eliza. Town and from thence to Amboy. He is our principal Engineer and may [be] depended upon for Skill and Industry.

The Deserter whose Examination you sent was brought over last Evening, two others from the Fleet came up this Morning; their Accounts correspond pretty exact. The latter inform us that Capt. Morris and Elisha [illegible] of Monmouth County came down to the Hook a few Days ago with 60 Men and are now on Staten Island. It may be proper this should be made known to the Committee of their County or some other Authority that proper Measures may be taken as to their Families and Effects. As we may expect Deserters daily I would wish that you would take their Examinations and forward to me but dispose of their Persons so as they may do us no Prejudice if they should be inclined. The Congress have allowed 4 Dollars to every Deserter without his Arms and 14 to those who desert with. Their Expences on being ascertained I will direct to be paid here, unless you would negotiate it directly thro the Congress which I should prefer.

In the Examination of Deserters, you will please to interogate them particularly as to the Numbers and Health of their Army. The prevailing Opinion among the Soldiery of their Plan and Intentions for the Persons of their Rank cannot be supposed to be acquainted with Instructors, or any special Expedition, it is

[63] From the printed text in Jay's *Correspondence and Public Papers.*

very observable that they have a general Knowledge of their Strength expected Reinforcemt and the great Plan.

Considering our Situation and Advantage I should think it very practicable (if suitable Powers could be found for the Purpose) to have constant Intelligence of their Proceedings, the State of their Guards &c. I wish you would with some confidential Persons give him your Thoughts upon this Subject. As the gaining Intelligence is of the last Importance and the Intercourse they admit and encourage with the Inhabitants seems to afford a fair Oppy. of establishing a Corrispondence of this Nature.

A Quantity of Musket Cartridges was sent over yesterday to Powles Hook to the Care of Col: Durkee to be delivered to your Order. You will be pleased to recommend the greatest Care in keeping and Frugality in using them and particularly to caution the Officers and Soldiers against firing at great Distances, an Error to which young Troops are much exposed and which occasions a great Waste of Ammunition. I am etc.[64] [MS. H. S.]

*To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

New York, August 8, 1776.

Dear Sir: This Letter will accompany another from me to the Convention of your State; the purport of wch. will come before you, and need not be recapitulated. In that Letter I did not care to make too full a declaration of the Weak State of this Army; to you Sir, I can have no reserve in doing of it, 'tis necessary that you, and some other Gentlemen of your body should know it.

By the last Genl return (on Monday) our numbers stood thus, fit for duty 10,514. Sick present 3039 sick absent 629. On Comd. 2946. On Furlough 97. Total 17225. In these are In-

[64] In the writing of Joseph Reed.

cluded the Troops on Long Island, Govrs. Island Powles hook, Red hook, Horns hook, Fort Washington, and Kings Bridge; in short all, except the Flying [Camp]. You can judge then Sir, without any annimadversions of mine, how competent this force is to oppose the Enemy, which can be little [if any short of 30,000 Men when the Hessians (which were parted with off the Banks of Newfoundland) arrive and which is momently expected. . . .][65]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES CLINTON

Head Quarters, New York, August 9, 1776.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 2d Instant is duly Received. enclosed you have a Resolution of the Provincial Convention which came to hand last Evening, by which you will please to Regulate your Conduct. I must beg you to Inform me as soon as possible what number your Brigade now consists of, and what number it will contain when a fourth part of the Militia are drafted agreeable to Order of provincial Congress.

By Intelligence Received, and movements observed of the Enemy, we have the greatest Reason to believe a general Attack will be made in the Course of a very few Days, our numbers are much short of the Enemy. I hope no time will be lost in Marching the Reinforcements expected to our Assistance from different Quarters, with all possible Dispatch. I am etc.[66]

To MAJOR GENERAL ARTEMAS WARD

Head Quarters, New York, August 13, 1776.

Dear Sir: I could not have supposed the Company of Artificers under Capt. Ayres[67] would have insisted on their Wages

[65] From a facsimile in an auction catalogue, 1936. The part in brackets is from the printed extract in the same.

[66] From the printed text in *Letters from Washington to Lear* (W. K. Bixby, Rochester: 1905).

[67] Capt. Joseph(?) Eyres (Ayres).

being augmented in Consequence of their being ordered to this place, the consequences of raising their pay would be an Immediate Application from all those in Service as Artificers to be put on the same footing, if not refuse doing Duty any longer than absolutely bound. But these men understanding the particular branch of making Gun Carriages &c and the absolute necessity we are under for them induces me to order them on at the Wages you mention, and to prevent the Evil abovementioned have concluded to stop them 40 or 50 Miles up the Sound and let them go on with their Business. Norwalk a town in the Western part of Connecticut situated on the Sound seems a proper Station, to which place you'll please to order them as soon as possible, with their Tolls &c compleat, Necessity obliges me to order on the Company of Artillery which I mentioned in my Letter some time past, both the above Companies may March to Norwich, and from that by Water, they will take in Charge the two Sea Mortars wrote for Yesterday, and such other articles as may be bound for this place. If necessary a Company of Artillery might be embodied and put in Continental pay, from among the Inhabitants of and in the Neighbourhood of Boston, in this case Inventory should be taken of such Stores, Arms Utensils &c that are delvd. them and the Officers pass their Receipts to be Accountable. I am etc.[68]

[MS. H. S.]

To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

Head Quarters, August 21, 1776.

Sir: I am much obliged to you for your Favour of this Date.[69] The Intelligence is important,[70] and I shall take every necessary

[68] In the writing of Samuel Blatchley Webb.

[69] In the *Washington Papers*.

[70] Livingston wrote that the force of the enemy was 35,000 men, 15,000 of whom were left on Staten Island; that all the rest embarked and "expected to attack every Hour . . . this Night at farthest. It was to be on Long Island and up the North River."

Measure to avail myself of it. Should any new Intelligence arise you will please to forward it with the same kind Expedition you have used on this. We have made no Discovery of any Moverents here of any Consequence. I am etc.[71] [MS. H. S.]

*To GOVERNOR WILLIAM LIVINGSTON

New York, August 22, 1776.

Dr. Sir: The Inclosed is left open for your perusal in hopes that you will be able to facilitate the design. I am etc.

PS. I believe the attempt, if any, upon the Jerseys by the Foreigners[72] will be nothing more than a division to withdraw your Aid from this place. [MS. H. S.]

*To LUND WASHINGTON

Heights of Haerlam, October 6, 1776.

Dear Lund: Your Letter of the 25th. Ulto. has reached my hands since the date of my last about this day Week. nothing material has happened since that time. We are strengthning ourselves in this Post, as the Enemy also are in theirs. They have moved some of their ships up the North River opposite to their own Lines, and a little below ours; whether with a view to cover their own Flanks, or at a proper time to aid in their Attack upon our present Post, time only can discover. We have been in daily expectation of having our Quarters beat up, but as yet nothing of the kind has been attempted. On Wednesday last I expected to have had some pretty warm work, but it turnd out otherwise. It arose from this. I sent a Party of 1000 Men to cover some Waggons in bringing of Grain from a Place where I expected opposition from them. this occasioned them to strike their Tents, and put their whole Line in motion, and of course

[71] In the writing of Joseph Reed.

[72] German troops, who were reported as intending to land at Bergen Point.

brought all our Men under Arms; but nothing more came of it, except that we went on, and brought of all the Grain.

Had I been left to the dictates of my own judgment, New York should have been laid in Ashes before I quitted it; to this end I applied to Congress, but was absolutely forbid; that they will have cause to repent the Order, I have not a moments doubt of, nor never had, as it was obvious to me (covered as it may be by their ships) that it will be next to impossible for us to dispossess them of it again as all their Supplies come by Water, whilst ours were derived by Land; besides this, by leaving it standing, the Enemy are furnished with warm and comfortable Barracks, in which their whole Force may be concentred, the place secured by a small garrison (if they chuse it) having their ships round it, and only a narrow Neck of Land to defend, and their principal force left at large to act against us, or to remove to any other place for the purpose of harrassing us. this in my judgment may be set down amg. one of the capitol errors of Congress.

Their Motives for sending Deputies to hear Lord Howes proposals were in my opinion, tolerably well founded; they had no Idea of treating with him otherwise than as Independant States; they declared so, previous to the appointing of their Commissioners. But as Lord Howe, a thorough paced Courtier, had taken uncommon pains to signify at all times, and upon all occasions, that he was vested with full powers to accomodate matters upon better terms than the Americans ever had askd, and became more importunate, as our Indifference Increased, it had the effect intended by him, on three classes of People. Our open and avowed Enemys, together with the Officers and Soldiers of their army, were exasperated at it, from a conviction that our aim, at the beginning, was Independance; the Neutrals

had this doctrine so strongly inculcated into them by the Tories, that they began to adopt the same Sentiments and wondered that we would not accept of more than we asked, whilst it remaind necessary to convince the third class who were really friendly, but great sticklers for the powers of, and the advantages to be derived from the long expected Commissioners, that the whole was a falacy, calculated to deceive, as I suppose they now are; since it evidently appears that Lord Howe had nothing more to propose than that, if we would Submit, his Majesty would consider whether we should be hung or not. If this meeting shd. have a bad effect with foreign Powers, who may be unacquainted with the inducements to it, it will be unlucky.

In speaking of New York, I had forgot to mention that Providence, or some good honest Fellow, has done more for us than we were disposed to do for ourselves, as near One fourth of the City is supposed to be consumed. however enough of it remains to answer their purposes.

I have got Harry Young here, and do not know what to do with him, he made his escape from the Roebuck and came to me at New York. I am affraid to entrust him to go home by himself and here he is useless to me. remember me to all friends, give the Inclosed Letter to my Brother a safe passage if it should even be delayed by it.

I am with sincere regard Dr Lund Yr. Affect. friend.[73]

To ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON

Mr. Lowe's, October 20, 1776.

Dear Sir: I wish I had leizure to write you fully on the subject of yr. last Letter; the moving state of the Army, and the ex-

[73] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of G. A. Baker & Co., Inc., of New York City.

treame hurry in which I have been Involved for these Eight days, will only allow me time to acknowledge the receipt of yr. favour, and to thank you (as I shall always do) for Any hints you may please to communicate, as I have great reliance upon your judgment; and knowledge of the Country, (which I wish to God I was as much master of). Drain'd as Connecticut is of Men, I have nevertheless recommended to the Govr. of it the advantages which would result from a Body of Mens moving towards the Enemy's right; but whether it will, or can be done, is more than I am able to say. A Regiment is gone to the Highlands to be under direction of your Convention.

Let me Intreat you my Dear Sir, to use your Influence to send, without delay, Provisions for this Army, towards the White Plains; upon a strict scrutiny, I find an alarming deficiency herein, occasiond by the Commissary's placing too much confidence in his Water Carriage, and the stock he had laid in at the Saw pits &c (which but too probably may be cut of from us, altho. upon the first knowledge I had of Its being there, I orderd it to be remov'd). We want both Flour, and Beef; and I entreat your exertions to forward them. I must also entreat you to send us a Number of Teams the more the better to aid in removing the Army as occasion requires. We are amazingly distress'd on Acct. of the want of them. We can move nothing for want of them. In short Sir, our Situation is really distressing. I have orderd Lord Sterling with upwards of 2000 Men to the White Plains to prevent the Enemys taking possession of it, and for security of our stores there; but the Troops were obliged to march without their Tents, or Baggage. In exceeding great haste, and most sincerely I am etc.[74]

[74] From a typed copy kindly furnished by Miss Lucy E. Osborne, librarian of the Chapin Library, Williamstown, Mass.

*To LUND WASHINGTON

Falls of Delaware So. Side 10th. Decr. 1776.

Dear Lund: Hurried as I am and distressed by a number of perplexing circumstances I will write you a few Lines in acknowledgment of yr. Letters of the 20th. and 26th. Ulto. * * *

If you can get some Holly Trees to plant upon the Circular Banks in the manner, or rather thicker than I did a year or two ago I should be glad of it, or if good and well set Holly can not be had then young and strait bodied Pines will do. If you have a mind to try the Sycamore upon some of the cross Banks in the Neck, or elsewhere I have no objection to the experiment; but it runs in my head that I have heard of some objection to the Sycamore; near to, or upon the Land of Colo. Warner Lewis in Gloucester, I have seen neglected hedges of it; but to what cause I know not. perhaps Colo. Fieldg Lewis (who I think it was told me they did not answer) can tell. The honey locust must, I should think, be better, if to be had.

If you can get a good match (and a young horse) for the Stallion, I should like it very well; but let the match be good, and the Horse handsome. the hurried situation I am in at present allows me no time, or indeed any body to spare, to send the Horses I promis'd. Mrs. Washington must therefore make the old greys serve her a little while longer, I think if there can be any possible shift made, without buying Linnen for the Negros at the enormous price you speak of, it ought to be attemped, as the price is too heavy to be borne with, (if it be possible to avoid it) without making the poor Negros suffer too much, this I would not do to save any expence, as they certainly have a just claim to their Victuals and cloaths, if they make enough to purchase them.

Decr. 17th. Ten Miles above the Falls

This Letter was wrote in order to send you by the last Post, but in the Multiplicity, and hurry of my business I forgot that I had wrote it, and therefore it was not sent. * * *

I send you by Mr. Mercer a very pretty Mare, but rather too small (if she had ever been broke to it) for the draft. I also send you a very likely, as well as a very good Horse to match the Bay you have for Mrs Washington; but as he has been badly cut, he is exceeding troublesome, being very vicious; as much so I think after Mares, as any Stallion I ever met with; buy the Horse you spoke of, and if you have any Money to spare, of mine, I should be glad to have it laid out in young Mares for Breeders.

Matters to my view, but this I say in confidence to you, as a friend, wears so unfavourable an aspect (not that I apprehend half so much danger from Howes Army, as from the disaffection of the three States of New York, Jersey and Pensylvania) that I would look forward to unfavorable Events, and prepare Accordingly in such a manner however as to give no alarm or suspicion to any one; as one step towards it, have my Papers in such a Situation as to remove at a short notice in case an Enemy's Fleet should come up the River. When they are removd let them go immediately to my Brothers in Berkeley.

Since writing the above, I have determind to send Mrs. Washington another Horse for her Chariot, which with the one before mentioned, the one you have, and the one you are to buy, will make a very good set, if you can purchase a good one and likely, the two I send are exceeding good Horses, and Young, the lightest of the two Bays is an exceeding tough, hardy horse as any in the World, but rather lazy, he will do well for the Postilian before.

My best remembrance to all friends with sincere regard I am etc.

PS. If you could exchange the old Greys for young Mares, it it would be a good way of getting quit of them. If I never did, in any of my Letters, desire you to Plant locusts across from the New Garden to the Spinning House as the Wall is to run from the end of the Sunk Wall (and on that side of it next the Quarter) as also as the other Wall from the old Garden gate to the Smoke House or Hen House (and on the lower side of it) I must request it now in this Letter. let them be tall and strait bodyed and about Eight or ten feet to the first Limbs, plant them thick enough for the limbs to Interlock when the Trees are grown for Instance 15 or 16 feet a part.

The young Gentlemen who carry my Horses home should be assisted by you in getting to Fredericksburg, may be they woud purchase some of yr. Greys.[75]

GENERAL ORDERS[76]

Trentown, December 30th. 1776.

All the Attillory to be Drawn up on the high Ground over the Bridge two pieces to be posted to Command the pass at the Bridge Upon an alarm, the Troopps are to form on the Ground in the rear of the Artilery to form in three Lines. Stevens & Mercers Brigades in the front Line, Lord Sterling & Formoys Brigades form the Second Line, there to be under Command of General Green, Sergeants, Glovers & St. Clairs Brigades to form the third Line, to be under the Commant of Major General Sullivan the Distance of two Hundred & fifty yards to be left between each Line a Gard to be Posted on each of the Roads leading to the Town from the Country of a Capt

[75] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by G. A. Baker & Co., of New York City. For the omitted portions see vol. 6, pp. 345 et seq.

[76] The General Orders of the Trenton-Princeton campaign have not survived. The above was found by Dr Carlos E. Godfrey, director of Public Records of New Jersey, in an orderly book of the German battalion, Sept. 17, 1776–June 11, 1777, in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

and forty Men who are to Keep patroles advanced two Milles with horse for each party General Mercer & Collonel Glovers is Desired to post the Guards. The Asst. QM: General to provide the horses The Officers are desired to Quarter ther Troops as much to gether as possible all the officers to march out the Ground to Dran up in Regular order The General expects to march verry Soon he Desires that officers and soldiers to hold themselves in compleat readiness to advance at a moments warning. The Troop to be Supplyed with ammunition if they are in Want. GENERAL WASHINGTON.

The Baggage Waggons to be drawn up in the rear of the artillery and the Distance of 500 Yards.

To CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL SCHOTT

Head Quarters, January 31, 1777.

Sir: You have herewith your recruiting Instructions, and Warrant to draw Money to begin with. You have Liberty to Nominate your Subaltern Officers, in doing which you cannot be too particular as your own Reputation and the good of the Service in a great measure depend upon this Choice, should it happen that upon my seeing them I think them Incapable of filling the Posts to which they are nominat'd with honour, I shall not think myself bound to confirm your Choice. Fix upon some place contiguous to where you expect to raise the greatest number of men for your Rendezvous, and let me know from time to time how you proceed and when there is a probability of your Company being Compleat. I need not mention the necessity there is of putting your Men under Training duty as fast as they are rais'd, by which they will be capable of rendering immediate Service when call'd into the Field. Wishing you Success I am etc.[77]

[77] In the writing of John Fitzgerald. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Mr. Hubert M. Schott, of Morristown, N. J.

*To DOCTOR WILLIAM SHIPPEN

Morris Town, May 3, 1777.

Dear Sir: As Mrs. Washington never receiv'd the Jallop and Calomel you promised her. As the Small Pox, by my last advices from home, has got into my Family, and I suppose not less than three hundred Persons to take the disorder, I must beg you to furnish the bearer with so much of the above Articles for my use as you shall judge necessary; and it will exceedingly oblige Dr Sir Yr. etc.

PS My best respects in wch. Mrs. Washington joins are presented to Mrs. Shippen Miss Nancy &ca.[78]

*To JOHN TAYLOE

German Town near Phila., August 5, 1777.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 21st. of June came to my hands about Eight days ago by Colo. Thornton; whom on Acct. of your recommendation, the regard I entertaind for his worthy Father, and I dare say I may add, his own merit, I have taken into my Family as an extra Aid de Camp, which is all I coud do with any degree of propriety.

After Genl. Howe had Imbark'd his Troops at Staten Island the presumption that he was going to operate upon the North River, in order to form a junction with the Canada Army under Command of General Burgoyne, was so strong, that I removd the Continental Army from Middle Brook to Morristown and from Morristown towards the North River. Indeed Circumstances were so much in favor of the Enemy having a design upon our Posts in the high-lands, that I threw part of the Army across the River; and lay in this Situation till they actually

[78] From the Shippen Deposit in the Library of Congress.

Saild from the Harbour of New York; Philadelphia, from the concurrent voice of every one, then being thought the object in view, I counter march'd the Army; and arriving on the Banks of the Delaware (abt. 33 Miles above the City) was met by an express from Congress with Information that the Fleet had actually arriv'd off the Capes of Delaware, this brought us immediately on to this place, where we had scarce arrivd before another Express came with Intelligence of their disappearance; and this again, being confirmd by subsequent expresses, leaves us in a very disagreeable State of Suspence.

These Marches, and Counter Marches, in the extreme heat we have lately had, has injur'd our Men greatly; but a day or two will refresh them; and till we can get some trace of the Course of the Enemy it will be a folly to move.

Our Affairs in the Northern department have taken a turn not more unfavourable than unexpected; the Public Papers convey as much information on this Subject as I have it in my power to do, to these therefore I shall refer, adding, that a public enquiry is order'd to be made into the conduct of the General Officers who Commanded there; which will give them an oppertunity of justifying themselves if Innocent, or the public an oppertunity of punishing them if otherwise, this however will not retrieve the misfortune,[79] for most certain it is, that this Affair has cast a dark shade upon a very bright prospect; but it is to be hoped that new Officers, and a re-inforcement of Men, will, in a little time dispel the Cloud which at prest. overwhelms that Northern Hemisphere.

My best respects attends Mrs. Tayloe, and the rest of the good Family at Mount Airy; as also your Neighbours of Sabine Hall. I am etc.[80]

[79] The evacuation of Ticonderoga.

[80] From a photostat of the original kindly loaned by Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell, of Lloyds, Va., through Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

To DOCTOR SAMUEL KENNEDY[81]

Camp of Pennybackers Mill, September 26, 1777.

Sir: I recd. yours of this date at this place. If the sick cannot all be accomodated at Reading part ought certainly to be removed to Lancaster, but I beg you will be careful to remove none to that place who will be soon fit for duty or who only want shoes Stockings or other Cloaths to make them so now. If you are obliged to make use of Churches or Houses that have no fire places you should purchase Stoves to make them warm and comfortable. I am etc.[82]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM WOODFORD

Camp near Potts Grove, September 26, 1777.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure of yours of the 25th. but am sorry to hear that your Wound is so troublesome to you. I have sent Colo. Biddle up purposely to see the Baggage properly disposed of, and I must beg of you to pay as much attention as your health will admit of to the conduct of the Baggage Guard, who will probably be licentious and distressing to the Inhabitants. Make my Compliments to the Marquis and be assured I am etc.[83]

To RICHARD HENRY LEE

Philadelphia County, October 28, 1777.

Dear Sir: The report of Genl. Conways promotion was so prevalent, and came from such authority, among others from Baron Kalb, who told me, that by some members of Congress

[81] Surgeon of the Continental Hospital. He died in June, 1778.

[82] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a photograph of the original, the gift of Gustav Oberlaender, of Reading, Pa.

[83] In the writing of Tench Tilghman. From a facsimile of the original in the possession (1889) of Col. Elliott F. Shepard.

he was informed it either had, or would take place, that I had not a single doubt remaining upon my mind of the Fact. what I said in my last, was with no design to injure General Conway, nor with a view to serve any individual, I then said, and still think, it would have an exceeding bad tendency; not, as I before observed, that I had formed my opinion from anything I had heard, because to this moment I have not exchanged directly, or indirectly, a single word with any Brigadier in the service on the subject, but from the nature of the case, well knowing that all officers are apt to entertain as high an opinion of their own merits as they deserve, and few of them are actuated by such pure and disinterested motives as to submit to what they conceive a slight, in wch. light the promotion of a younger officer over them undoubtedly would be considered. These, and these only, were my motives for the letter I wrote you. how far he is qualified to discharge the duties of Adjutant Genl in case the present Gentn.[84] is appointed to, and accepts any other office, you can judge almost as well of as I. He must, no doubt, be well acquainted with the detail duty of an army from the length of his Services; but then he is a bad scribe, which however may in some measure be remedied by good assistants (which he or any other Adjutant Genl. must have), what weight there may be, in his being a Foreigner, you can judge as well of as I can. There is a Gentn., if Colo. Pickering should go out of the office, who I am told is well qualified to supply his place, he was formerly Deputy Adjn. Genl. to the Northern army, and of the name of Flemming,[85] he had been an officer in the British Service, well acquainted with detail duty, and a good disciplinarian. He was in very bad health at the time Genl. Gates left that office; which was, I believe, the

[84] Col. Timothy Pickering.

[85] Col. Edward Fleming (Flemming). He was deputy adjutant general, Northern Department, from August, 1775, to June, 1776.

principal reason why he was not thought of as a successor; that he was not, caused his resignation. The part he has acted since, and his political Sentiments, can be known perhaps with precission from the Representatives of New York, where he formerly resided, and those of Jersey, where he is at present a resident; and in whose Treasury, I understand, he has imbarked his all. a good security if true.

The three Gentn.[86] you have in contemplation for constituting a Board of War (not from your own body) are, in my judgment, equal to any you could make choice of. They want, what is not to be found among a people unused to war, a competent knowledge of the business; but they have a large share of understanding, great application, and as much experience in the business as any I know, having had as good opportunities of seeing, and feeling our wants as any among us. at the same time men of unquestionable attachment and Integrity. The advantages of having able members solely confined to this department are too obvious and important; and the benefits to myself and the army at large, too diffusive and extensive, to suffer local conveniences to interfere; for which reason if Messrs. Harrison and Pickering should Incline to accept the appointment, it will meet with my ready concurrance.

I congratulate you most sincerely on the important events to the northward; but cannot help complaining, most bitterly, of Genl. Gates's neglect in not giving me the earliest authentic advice of it; as an affair of that magnitude might, and indeed did, give an important turn to our operations in this Quarter, at least in our designs, but which, for want of confirmation, we began to doubt the propriety of, from the time I wrote Congress on the 18th. (Inclosing the first acct. I had of the surrender, wch. was not altogether authentic) till the 26th. I heard not a tittle

[86] Joseph Reed, Timothy Pickering, and Robert Hanson Harrison.

more of it (and actually began to doubt the truth of it), nor have I to this moment recd. the least advice of this Important transaction from General Gates. I wish Sir, the Situation of your Troops in this Quarter, and our Force, could give you well grounded hopes of a similar event; but as this will shortly become the subject of a Letter to Congress, I shall not inlarge upon it at present, in this.

Although the Surrender of General Burgoyne is a great, and glorious event, highly honourable to our arms, and to those who were immediately opposed to him. and although I am perfectly well satisfied that the critical situation in wch. Genl. Gates was likely to be thrown (by the approach of General Clinton up the No. River) would not allow him to insist upon a more perfect Surrender; I am nevertheless convinced, that this event will not equal our expectations; and that, without great precaution, and very delicate management, we shall have all these men, if not the officers, opposed to us in the spring. without the necessary precautions (as I have just observed) I think this will happen; and unless great delicacy is used in the precautions, a plea will be given them, and they will justify, a breach of the Covenant on their part, do they not declare (many of them) that no faith is to be held with Rebels? did not the English do the very thing I am now suspecting them of, after the Convention of Closter Seven,[87] upon changing their commander? will they hold better faith with us than they did with the French? I am persuaded, myself, that they will not, and yet, I do not see how it is to be prevented, without a direct violation of the articles ourselves, or, by attempting to guard against the evil, give them a plea of justification on theirs.

It is reported among us that Genl. Mifflin has resigned his offices in this army, the truth you must know. It is also said,

[87] The Convention of Closter Seven with the French in 1757.

that Baron Kalb is desirous of going into that Department, being the one he has been regularly trained in for a number of years in the French Service, whether, admitting this to be the case, as it is a department not only of great trust, but through whose hands much of the Public Money is to pass Congress would choose to Intrust the Baron is left to themselves to determine; certain it is a knowing man will be much wanted, and as certain it is, I know of none such among ourselves. I am etc.[88]

STATEMENT AS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

[Valley Forge, January, 1778.]

One Inspector General
Six Deputy-Inspectors General
One Inspector to each brigade.

The business of the office to form a system of manual and manœuvres, to concert all necessary regulations for the better government and arrangement of the army, in all its departments.

The exercise of the same of course, to be subordinate to Congress, the board of war and the commander in chief. But the inspector general with the approbation and authority of the Commander in chief to have full power of establishing regulations for manœuvres, camp discipline and everything relating to the internal police of the army; all kinds of military duty in the field, in camp, in garrison, or in quarters; to define the limits of the several departments, and adopt such amendments and changes as shall seem requisite. Provided no power be exercised to supersede or interfere with any positive instution [*sic*], made, or rules and regulations prescribed by Congress or the Board of War, and provided also that his power do not extend to prescribing rules for the management of the horse and artillery, in

[88] The text is from the print in *The Century Magazine*, March, 1911.

Richard Henry Lee's letter, to which this is a reply, has already been referred to. (See note 71 to Washington's letter to Richard Henry Lee, Oct. 17, 1777, vol. 9, p. 389.)

any thing that concerns them as distinct separate corps; but only so far as they may be affected under the collective idea of an army, and in their common connexion with it.

The gentlemen in this department to be considered as the instructors and censors of the army, in every thing connected with discipline and arrangement. They are to superintend the execution of the regulations established; and to see that a due conformity to them is observed throughout the army.

They are to manœuvre the army agreeable to the rules laid down, under the orders of the generals commanding. The inspector general to exercise the whole under the direction of the commander in chief, his deputies the wings or divisions under the direction of the Lieutenant, or Major Generals commanding them; and the inspectors to exercise the brigades under the direction of their Brigadiers.

The Inspector General to assist the Quarter Master General, in forming all orders of march; the common order of battle; in choosing and arranging incampments, and in fixing guards &c.

In action and on marches, the Inspector General to be near the person of the commander in chief. His immediate assistants to be distributed to the different wings or divisions of the army to promote order, and see that all the movements be properly performed. The Brigade inspectors to be with their brigades for the same purposes.

These outlines of a plan for the office of the Inspector General are upon a larger scale, than is actually practiced in the European armies; but they are adapted to our circumstances, confused and indefinite as every department is, and calling for some general regulating hand.

The person I would propose, for Inspector General, is the Baron Steuben. I have had much conversation with this gentleman, and believe him to be well qualified for the office. He appears to me to have an accurate knowlege of every part of

military discipline and arrangement, and to be a man of sense and judgment.

Barons Arendt and Holtzendorf appear also to be men of science in their profession, and would make good deputies; but the Inspector General will require for his immediate assistants some men of intelligence and activity, who are Americans; otherwise for want of the language and an acquaintance with the genius of our service and men, he would be involved into difficulties and mistakes, that would defeat the end of the institution. From an ignorance of our tongue, being unable to communicate his idea, he would be unqualified for the executive duties of his office, and from an ignorance of our present system and the temper of our army, he might be for introducing too violent revolutions, that would neither be practicable nor palatable. These assistants, or some of them should be men of extensive abilities, skilled in the French language, of zeal, activity and decision. I have not sufficient knowlege of our officers to point out those, who best answer this description; but Henley, Lee, Barber and Scull occur to me as men who might be very useful in this time; though I know not, if either of them understands the French language.

The Brigade-Inspectors should be officers drawn from the Brigade; the best qualified that can be found.

The Baron Steuben, if appointed, as he has held high rank in the Prussian service, and has been Lieutenant General, in the service of the Margrave De Bade, cannot with propriety accept of less rank, than that of Major General.

The deputies and Brigade Inspectors should have no increase of rank; but precisely the same which they may have held before their appointment to these offices. Those who are taken from the line should preserve their stations in it and rise in course.

There are two Gentlemen out of this army, whom I should wish to see introduced into this department; General Cadwallader[89] and Colonel Fleming.[90] The former is a military genius, of a decisive and independent spirit, properly impressed with the necessity of order and discipline and of sufficient vigor to enforce it. He would soon perfect himself in the practical part, and be fit to succeed to the first place in the department. Col: Fleming is an excellent disciplinarian, and from long practice, in the British army, has acquired the necessary knowledge.[91]

To COLONEL GEORGE MORGAN

Headquarters, May 11, 1779.

Sir: I received your favor of the 9th inst by Captain Dodge. It will be convenient for me to see the Delaware Chiefs and those who attend them at Headquarters tomorrow evening at five Oclock. The whole or a part will come as may be most

[89] Brig. Gen. John Cadwalader, of the Pennsylvania Militia.

[90] Col. Edward Fleming. He had been deputy adjutant general, Northern Department, and resigned in June, 1776.

[91] This document, in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, unsigned and undated, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 152, 10, fol. 53, among letters bearing dates in April, 1781. It seems to be a statement made by Washington to the Congress Committee of Conference, then at Valley Forge in January, 1778. No record of it is found in the *Journals of the Continental Congress*.

On July 11, 1778, Washington wrote a brief note of thanks to Miss Elizabeth Watkins for "her curious present of a laurel wreath," which was a watch-paper, cut out as a wreath by Miss Watkins. A facsimile of Washington's note is in the *Annals of the Van Rensselaers* (Albany: 1888).

In the Huntington Library is an undated list, in the writing of Washington, of his tenants in Fauquier, Loudoun, and Berkeley Counties. It was drawn up, evidently, prior to the year 1779, as there are marginal entries, apparently made in January of that year by a clerk, showing the changes in tenantry. There were 20 lots in Fauquier and Loudoun and 9 in Berkeley. The number of acres and the lease rental of each lot, with the names of the tenants, is given. A photostat of this document has been kindly furnished for the *Washington Papers* in the Library of Congress.

A typed transcript of the contemporary copy of Washington's letter to Maj. Jos. Prowell, Apr. 17, 1779, has been kindly furnished by the American Autograph Shop, Merion Station, Pa. It deals with the same subject as does Washington's letter to Col. William Malcom, April 17–18, 1779. (See vol. 14, p. 401.)

agreeable to them, and you will be pleased to accompany them. I am etc.[92]

*To CHARLES PETTIT

Morris-town, February 11–12, 1780.

Dear Sir: General Greene has been pleased to promise me, that he would write to you on a matter which I consulted him on the other day, but lest he should forget, or delay it, I give you the trouble of a letter myself.

The thing is this

I have Bills on the Commissioners, at Paris for 1392 Dollrs. for interest of money lent the United States. They are made payable to me, or order in the usual form and I shall endorse them; tho' I am no further interested in the business than to oblige a friend. The money arising from the sale of these bills is by particular desire to be deposited in the loan office of the State of Virginia and the question I want to be solved is.

Whether in the course of business it would suit you to receive and make use of the sum arising from the Sale of these Bills at Phila. and deposit as much in the loan office in Virginia; taking a certificate in my name as surviving acting attorney of George Mercer Esqr and his Mortgages to wit: Richd. Gravat and Mary Wroughton?

If this could be done, it would avoid the risk of sending the money, or the endorsed Bills through a long tract of Country to Virginia. It would oblige me, and serve a worthy man whose Estate has been sold[93] under the powers above and lost in a manner to him and his creditors by the depreciation of our currency.

[92] From a copy in the possession (1938) of Mrs. W. H. Newmyer, of Pittsburgh, Pa. Morgan was then at Princeton, N. J. He indorsed the above letter as "Rec'd May 11, 5 Oclock, P. M." (See Speech to the Delaware Chiefs, May 12, 1779, vol. 15, p. 53.)

[93] The draft has the words "by me" crossed out at this point.

I shall thank you for an early answer to this letter; and shall be glad to learn the present exchange.

with much esteem and regard I am etc.

PS. Feby. 12th. On second thoughts I have determined to send you the Bills; and request the favor of you to dispose of them. The Gentn. who sent them to me for endorsation; (desiring to have the money lodged in the Virginia loan office), says "I submit the following mode for doing it, to wit: to hand the Bills by some Gentn. of the Army (your acquaintance) to the Virginia deligates in Congress, they will be glad of them, as they must draw their future support from the Virginia treasury. They will therefore find out a friend to sell them, or they may do it themselves; but let your friend take their joint receipt for the current money, as received of your Excellency as Attorney for George Mercer Esqr. &ca. (the former style) and give an order for that sum on the Virginia treasury; on sight of this order a loan office certificate may be obtained from our treasury; this receipt may be forwarded by Post but for fear of a single conveyance, I recommend a duplicate"

I communicate this in case you should not be able to negotiate the business in the manner mentioned in the body of the letter. If neither of these modes can be made to answer I shall depend nevertheless upon your friendly aid to dispose of the Bills to the best advantage; the money to be retained till some good conveyance offers of sending to Mr. Lund Washington near Alexandria or the loan office in Williamsburg.

I am &ca.

1 Bill for	1200	Dollrs.
6 Do.....for 30. each....	180.	
1 Do..... 12.....	12	
	1392.	All dated Decr 20th 1779 [94]

[94] From a photostat of the draft sold at auction in 1938.

To MAJOR GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

Hd. Qrs., Peekskill, September 18, 1780.

Dr. Sir: I have received New York papers confirming the arrival of Rodney with 10 sail of the line. Major Jemmison says 8 and adds that Clinton has ordered the whole flying army to New York and that 70 transports were ready to receive them. West Point, I for [mutilated] is very weak. I would have you move the army to the vicinity of Tappan [mutilated] be nearer all the points that interest us. The garrison is so weak that it seems essential to reinforce it. Send a good Continental Regiment for this purpose. Take all the pains you can to procure intelligence and give me the quickest advice. I am etc.[95]

To BRIGADIER GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE

Robinsons, September 26, 1780.

Dr Sir: Instead of coming to The Ferry you will march your brigade by Storms and Clement's to West Point sending your baggage by water. You will, for this purpose, send forward your Qr. Mr. to Kings ferry to prepare boats, with directions, if there are not a sufficiency there, to come on to West Point for them. I am etc.

If there should be two brigades on their march the Officer Commanding will detach one of them in the above manner and halt the other at some convenient place in the rear of Stoney Point abt. William's[96]

[95] The draft, in the writing of Alexander Hamilton, is in the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress.

[96] In the writing of Alexander Hamilton. From a photostat of the letter sold at auction (1938) which is addressed to the "Officer Commanding The Detachment on its march to Kings ferry." The additional paragraph is addressed to "General Wayne" and the address sheet bears Wayne's indorsement.

*To LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER HAMILTON

New Windsor, December 27, 1780.

Dear Hamilton: Your letter of the 19th came Safe by the Doctr., who set out this Morning for Philadelphia.

I had, previous to the receipt of it, and without knowing that the Board of War had given any direction respecting the Armory at Albany, requested the Governor[97] to exempt (if he could do it with propriety) the Citizens who were employed in it, from Military Services in the cases of alarm, and had written to Genl. Clinton to direct the Quartr. Master to afford every assistance in his power to have the Works repaired, and the business as far as depended upon him accelerated. I have now given order for delivery of such hides as Mr. Ranselaer shall find *absolutely* necessary for the use of the Armoury.

Altho a trip to Albany, on more accts. than one, would be perfectly agreeable to my wishes; I am so far from having it in my power, at this time, to fix a period for the gratification of this that I have small hope of accomplishing it at all this Winter. There are some matters in suspence, which may make a journey to Rhode Island necessary. but as the subject is not fit for a letter; I shall with-hold the communication till I see you.

A second embarkation has taken place at New York, the strength of the detachment, and its destination, is vaguely reported, and no certainty under whose command it goes. Arnold is said to be of it; from whence the Connecticutions conclude that New haven or New London, must infallibly be the object while more rational conjectures send it to the Southward; from whence no late accts. have been received.

Mrs. Washington most cordially joins me, in compliments of congratulation to Mrs. Hamilton and yourself, on the late

[97] George Clinton.

happy event of your marriage and in wishes to see you both at head Quarters. We beg of you to present our respectful compliments to Generl. Schuyler, his Lady and Family, and offer them strong assurances of the pleasure we should feel, at seeing them at New Windsor.

With much truth and great personal regard etc.[98]

*To ALEXANDER HAMILTON

½ past A. M. [March 8, 1781].

Dr Hamilton: I shall be obliged to you for the answer to the address as soon as it is convenient to you. if we do not ride to the point to See the fleet pass out, I am to have a conference with Count De Rochambeau and the Engineer directly after Breakfast at which I wish you to be present. I am sincerely and Affectly. yrs. etc.[98]

*ORDER OF MARCH FOR A RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE AGAINST THE NORTH END OF YORK ISLAND[99]

[Near Dobbs Ferry, July 10?, 1781.]

Order of March for the Right Column of the American Troops who are to move by the Right.

1st.	Sheldons Infantry	Colo. Sheldon	Colo. Scammell
2	York Levies		
3	Sheldons Cavalry		
4.	Light Infantry	Scammell	

NB. This is the order of March during Night, in the day the Calvalry will proceed the Infantry

[98] From the *Hamilton Papers* in the Library of Congress. Hamilton resigned as aide, Feb. 16, 1781, but went with Washington to Rhode Island.

[99] This order of march seems to have been drawn up for the cooperative movement with the French as given in the "Instructions for Reconnoitering, July 13, 1781" (vol. 22, p. 370). See also Washington's letter to Rochambeau, July 12, 1781 (vol. 22, p. 363).

For the left Column—Marching by the Right on the Saw Mill River Road.

1st.	Van Guard	
2	A field piece	Majr. Genl. Parsons
3	first Cont. Brigade	
4	Secd. Cont. Brigade	
5.	A field piece	
6	A field piece	Majr. Genl. Lincoln
7	first Massts. Brigade	
8	Second Do. Do.	
9	A field piece	
10.	Sappers and Miners	
11.	Field piece	Majr. Genl. Howe.
12	New Hampr. Brigr.	
13.	third Masts. Do	
14.	Twelve pounder	
15.	Intrenchg Tools—Bat Horses, Canteens &ca.	
16.	Rear Guard.	

The spare Ammunition of each division is to be in the rear of the division it belongs to.[1]

*To JONATHAN TRUMBULL JUNIOR

Eltham, November 6, 1781

Colo. Bassetts.

My dear Sir: I came here in time to see Mr. Custis breathe his last. About Eight o'clock yesterday Evening he expired. The deep and solemn distress of the Mother, and affliction of the Wife of this amiable young Man, requires every comfort in my power to afford them; the last rights of the deceased I must

[1]From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by the American Autograph Shop, Merion Station, Pennsylvania.

also see performed; these will take me three or four days; when I shall proceed with Mrs. Washington and Mrs. Custis to Mount Vernon.

As the dirty tavern you are now at cannot be very comfortable; and in spite of Mr. Sterne's[2] observation the House of Mourning not very agreeable; it is my wish, that all of the Gentn of my family, except yourself, who I beg may come here and remain with me; may proceed on at their leizure to Mount Vernon, and wait for me there. Colo. Cobb will join you on the road at the Tavern we breakfasted at (this side Ruffens). My best wishes attend the Gentn. and with much sincerity and affectn. I remain, etc.[3]

*To LUND WASHINGTON

Philadelphia, January 8, 1782.

Dear Lund: Your letters of the 12th: and 19th. Ulto. are now before me, unacknowledged, and this being Post day, will probably produce a third if not a fourth, as I missed one by the last Post and understood that no letters further So. than Annapolis were received in the Mail.

I beg you to examine my Papers, and send me those which relate to the Tract on which Simpson lives, which I think consists of five Surveys (made if my memory served me, by a McLean), those also which relate to my Land at the Great Meadows, which I believe is in one Survey (each Survey amounting to abt. three hundred and thirty odd Acres), likewise My Patent for the Tract on Racoon Creek; these Lands by the late settlement of boundery between Virginia and Pensylvania have fallen into the latter State, and require something from thence

[2] Laurence Sterne.
[3] From the original in the Connecticut State Library.

to perfect my right, and this I am told is a favourable moment to do it in. I have been attempting in vain to recollect whether the Surveys were made in my name, or the name of others, and whether they are in my possession, or (those for the first two Tracts) returned to the Land Office of this State; nor is there any way of determining it but by a search among my Papers. If I can be of service to you, in obtaining a Patent for your Land under like predicament, I shall do it with all my heart. The sooner I get these Papers the better; they will, I suppose, come safe by the Post; but if any Gentleman on whose care you could confide was coming immediately on, so that there would be no occasion to shift hands, it would be preferable.

I had wrote thus far when your two letters of the 25th Ulto. and 2d Inst came to hand, the little space between the coming and going of the Post, and the number of letters I have to read and write upon those occasions, will not allow me at this time, to say more about the Stable than that I entirely approve your plan for enlarging it, provided the Coach house can be placed in the middle; without which, the House, with large and dble. doors at one end would have an uncouth appearance, the Coach House should be in the middle and a pediment over it, with a door in the pediment for the purpose of receiving hay &ca., but as the length of the House makes no other difference in the rafters and joice than in the number, they may be set about immediately, in the meantime, if you will let me know the exact distance from the inner range of the Garden Wall (which may become part of the gable end of the Stable) to the outer range of the New Coach House, and the range of the other Houses above it, and will also inform me of the size of the last Coach House and stables, and how much too small the latter were. I can then form some plan, and make a disposition of the Doors and Windows, and transmit it to you; you may also, at

the time of furnishing me with these materials to work upon, give me your Ideas of a proper plan; and may consult Evans if he is a man capable of design upon the subject.

I can add no more at present than my best wishes to Mrs. Washington and yourself and Milly Posey, and that I am Yr. etc. Mrs. Washington begs to be remembers to you and Mrs. Washington and Milly Posey in the kindest manner.[4]

To JOSEPH WEBB

Head Qrs. Newburgh, June 24, 1782.

Dear Sir: The Boots which came to me through your Brother Colo. Webb, and which I now return by Colo. Trumbull, [are] too small for me. they are so tight in the Calf that I can scarce get them on. and are, I believe, too large in the small part of the leg.

Inclosed is a measure by which I should be glad to have a neat, and thin pair of draw boots (of Horse Leather) made. The sooner they could be sent to me, the better pleased I should be, as I am in immediate want

The measure is taken very exact, and if understood and made by it, must fit me. Not knowing how much they can be made to draw, I have given the size of the small part of the Leg, altho' I do not conceive it to be *very* necessary. Turned down Tops (like those sent) I should prefer. Be so good as to present my best respects, in which Mrs. Washington joins me, to your Lady. and believe me to be Dr Sir etc.[5]

[4] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of G. A. Baker & Co., Inc., of New York City.

[5] From a typed copy of the original in the possession of Warren H. Colson, of Boston, Mass., kindly furnished by Francis R. Foster, of Vineyard Haven, Mass.

On Apr. 15, 1782, Washington wrote to Philip Schuyler, inclosing sundry papers concerning the provision contract with William Duer, and requested Schuyler to decide on the quantities of salted provisions to be maintained at the posts north of Poughkeepsie, as well as the amounts to be paid the contractor for the same. This letter is in the Hamilton Deposit in the Library of Congress, at present (1938) restricted as to publication.

*To GEORGE AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON

Verplanks point, September 25, 1782.

Dear George: The last Post brought me your letter of the 10th. from Mount Vernon. I am sorry to find by it, that you had not got rid of your fever; the cool weather will, probably prove your best physician and this is fast approaching

The Inclosed Letters from the Marquis de la Fayette came under cover to me. They were brought by Baron Viominil, Duke Lauzen, Marq. Laval and others; who were driven on shore in the Delaware and narrowly escaped being taken in Captn. L'Touche who with his Men fell into the Enemys hands; the Passengers with the money, Papers, and a very little if any of their Baggage were landed previous to the striking of the Colours of the L'Eagle (the Ship Commanded by Captn. L'Touche)

We remain in the same state of uncertainty with respect to Peace as when I wrote you last; the Negociations at Paris proceed slowly and seem more calculated to procrastinate than to bring about the great work which seems to be the wish of all good People who prefer the public weal to their own selfish views. The prospects of the Campaign are perfectly inactive; I see no cause therefore (unless the Marquis's Letters require any services of you) for your joining the Army in a weak and debilitated state of health. the reports of the arrival of Hessians at New York, the Marching of the Pensylvania Militia &ca. were without foundation except sending Oxen to Burlington which I was obliged to do before the Artillery could move. The Army has been Encamped at this place since the last day of August. The French Troops have all crossed the River and are Encamped a little on our left. I am very glad to hear that your

Father and Family are well, remember me Affectionately to them when you see or write to them next. I am etc.[6]

*To ——— ———

Newburgh, December 5, 1782.

Sir: Permit me to offer you my thanks for your kindness in attending Mrs. Washington till she was met by a Gentleman of my family at Bennets Tavern, and for your particular attention to her on the journey; and to assure you that with much esteem and regard I have the honor etc.[7]

*To COLONEL CLEMENT BIDDLE

[Philadelphia.]

Sunday Morng. [December 14, 1783.]

Gen. Washington's Complimts. to Colo Biddle. Begs to know if the Vessel for Alexandria will Sail today, and whether Colo. Biddle has procured the articles required. If more money is wanted Colo Biddle will please to name the Sum, and the Genl would be glad to receive the Acct. [H. S. P.]

*To FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE AND RALPH WORMELEY, JUNIOR

Mount Vernon, June 20, 1784.

Gentlemen: Your favor of the 12th. of March with its enclosures were long getting to hand; and arrived on the eve of a journey I was about to make to Philadelphia. My stay at that place, a round of Company since, and unavoidable business, must apologize for my silence 'till this time.

[6] From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Southby & Co., of London.

[7] From the original in the collection of Walter R. Benjamin, of New York.

For the satisfaction of Mr. Montagu, I sincerely wish I could give a more pleasing detail of the proceedings under the Power of Attorney (transmitted Colonels Tayloe and Mason, and myself) and the decree of the Chancery Court thereon, than what follows.

Colonel Mason declined acting, Colonel Tayloe accepted the trust, but the whole weight of the business fell upon me until I left this Country, and took command of the American Army. Every transaction antecedent to that epocha Mr. Montagu and Colo Mercer were duly informed of, by me, and had an Acct. of the Sales, and the circumstances attending them, transmitted. To collect the amount was all, (or nearly all) that remained to be done; and this ought to have taken place in November following my departure in May, 1775.

In December of that year I wrote a letter to Colo. Tayloe of which the following, so far as it related to that business, is a copy. . . .[8]

Finding that Colo. Tayloe had adopted no measures for collecting the money, and that the interest of all concernd would suffer very considerably by a further neglect of it, I wrote him the following letter.

New York Augt. 19th. 1776

Dear Sir, "A Letter which I received from Mr. Lund Washington by the last Post informs me, that no person (by your order) has yet applied for Colo. Mercers Bonds in his hands. That frequent tenders of money in discharge of them are made to him, and that he thinks, if it was agreeable to you and me, he could collect the debts which are due, without much difficulty, or neglect of my business."

[8]The omitted letter is that of December 11, 1775, which is printed in full on p. 515–517 of this Appendix. It varies in minor verbal details from the copy Washington inserted here.

"I have never had a wish that this business should be placed in his hands, not so much because I was fearful of its interfering with my business, as because I was unwilling to have it thought I had a mind to favor a relation or friend with the[9] Commission, and therefore recommended Colo. Peyton, but as the latter has not entered upon the collection (from what cause I know not) I shall have no objection to Mr. Lund Washington's doing it, if you desire it, and he will do it upon as easy terms as Colo. Peyton, or any other proper person would undertake it for".

From the purport of these letters, it must evidently appear that I was anxious to have the business executed, though from my then engagements, my absence from Virginia, and the little prospect I saw of rendering any further Service to Col Mercer or his Mortgagees, I had determined to withdraw myself from the trust. I called upon Colo. Tayloe in decided terms to fulfil what remained to be accomplished under it; which indeed was no more than to collect the Bonds, and make report to the Court for a final decree respecting the priority of Mortgages; if the sum arising from the Sales should have been found in sufficient to discharge *All* of them.

Continuing invariably in this determination, I listened to no application which could renew my Agency in the business, until Colo. Tayloes death rendered it indispensibly necessary for me to report to the Court my proceedings on, and previous to, the Sales; with the circumstances of the different parts of the Estate, which I had sold. This I accordingly did sometime in the Fall of the year 1779. And afterwards, upon finding that the business had come to a total stand, and all parties were suffering by means of the depreciation of the paper Bills of credit, and that a final decision, or *some* direction of the Court on the

[9] Washington has here crossed out the word "collection."

premises, was indispensably necessary, I wrote the letter which follows to the Attorney General, Edmund Randolph Esqr.

Morris Town 12th Apl 1780.

Dear Sir, "I mean to address you on a subject in the line of your profession, and to request that you will undertake the business, and prosecute it to a final, and as speedy an issue as circumstances will admit".

"The business in which I would wish to employ you, is in a Suit in Chancery brought in the Honble. the Genl Court by Richard Gravat and Mary Wroughton of London, and George Mercer, in whose behalf I act as an Attorney, against James and John Francis Mercer and Messrs. Dick and Hunter. The enclosure No. 1 (the Copy of an Interlocutory decree passed in the Suit in November 1773) will shew you on what footing the matter was then placed. And No 2 (the copy of a report by me, dated the 15th. of Decr 1774) the proceedings in consequence with respect to it, on my part."

"The papers concerning the Cause, antecedent to the Interlocutory decree, are lodged I presume in the Secretary's Office, or will be found among your Fathers, as he was employed in it (there being none in my hands that I recollect) and to these I must refer you for obtaining such further and previous information of the nature of the dispute, and of the plaintiffs claims, as you may think it necessary to have; for at this distance of time my memory will not enable me to state them, with any degree of precision. I would mention however, that I believe the validity of the Mortgage, or deed from Colo. Mercer, either to Mr. Gravat or Miss Wroughton, and of one executed by Mr. James Mercer, under the idea of being his Attorney to Messrs. Dick and Hunter, by way of counter-security for some engagements they had entered into on acct. of John Mercer Esqr. his

Father, who had charged a settlement made on his sons with the payment of a certain part of his debts and the preference of the respective claims of the parties, make a part of the material points in dispute, and the consideration of the above deed of settlement made by Mr. John Mercer in 1779 to his Sons George and James, their subsequent advances or engagements in consequences, and the Accounts between them and his Estate, and themselves, another material part. You will observe that such accts. are mentioned in the Interlocutory decree, and an adjustment of them directed by Auditors or Referees appointed for the purpose, by the Court."

"This remains still to be done, and as it seems to be essential in order to a final decree (a matter for which I very sincerely wish) I must sollicit your good Offices in expediting it as far as it may be in your power. In a point so interesting and intricate as this, and on which so much may depend, it may be necessary probably, for Council to attend on the part of the pltts: if it should, you will be pleased to act upon the occasion as circumstances shall require and permit, either by attending the referees yourself, or employing some Gentleman to do it in whose abilities and knowledge you can confide. To promote the Auditing of these Accts. is the primary object of writing to you by the present conveyance as I should be happy, if possible, to have the business brought to a conclusion at the ensuing Court, and as this appears to be the first step to put it in a proper train."

"I shall take occasion in the course of a few Weeks to write you again and will then (if I can obtain them) transmit you a particular acct. of the Sales under the Interlocutory Decree constituting the total of the Sum mentioned in the copy of the report; Also a state of the transactions since, with respect to the business, of the Debts collected, of the application of the money and what proportion still remains unpaid."

All this was done accordingly, but it was sometime before I was able to procure the necessary documents for the purpose.

"I shall be very happy to hear from you, and to receive any instructions for the better conducting the business you may think proper to give me".

To this Letter I received the following answer.

Richmond Decr. 1st. 1780.

Dear Sir, "I omitted to answer your Excellys. favor of the 12th. of April last, from an expectation of hearing from you soon after on the subject of it. This hope I was led to entertain from an expression contained in it, and had therefore resolved to trouble you but once, by way of reply."

"It is not perhaps the smallest evil, which Virginia has derived from the War, that the public papers and records, in being removed from the Offices, exposed to danger, have undergone great diminution, and that even those parts, which survive the carelessness of Clerks, are not yet recovered from their confusion. This circumstance has hitherto rendered it difficult to lay our hands upon all the documents in Colo. Mercers case. The Clerk of the Chancery within whose province this business falls is so much engaged in another line, that he is unable to make the necessary arrangements in his department of the Court. I do not question however, that I shall procure everything, which may serve as a foundation for a final decree, as far as papers are concerned. But I fear, that the Sequestering Act forbids the Court of chancery to proceed in this cause. It provides generally, that all Suits, which were depending in any Court of Law or equity within this commonwealth, on the 12th. day of April in the year of our Lord 1774 wherein British subjects alone are Plaintiffs, and any Citizen of this Commonwealth is a defendant, shall stand continued (unless abated by the death of either party) in the same state, in which they were at that time Now

Mr. Gravat, Miss Wroughton and Colo. Mercer come within the description of British Subjects, and thereby have occasioned a suspension of the Suit. I will take the opinion of the Court at their next Session in April, whether an Interlocutory decree does not except your Situation from the restrictions of this Law. I should have mentioned, that my Father must have filed every paper in his possession, respecting this business, as not a trace is to be found of one in his Press. I am the rather too inclined to believe this, as all exhibits must have been before the Court at the time of the Interlocutory decree".

After this intercourse by Letter, I heard nothing more of the matter until Jany. 1783; when I recd. (under cover) the following Interlocutory decree, wch. has been complied with on my part.

"In the high Court of Chancery
Saturday the 9th. of Novembr. 1782.
John Francis Mercer ..... Plaintff.
against
Richd Gravat, Mary Wroughton and Geo Mercer

Defendents

On the motion of the Plaintiff by his Council, it appearing to the Court that his Excellency Genl Washington is the only Survivor of the Persons appointed to sell the Estate of the Defendt. Geo: Mercer who acted therein under an Interlocutory decree of the former General Court betwn. the said Richd. Gravat &ct. Plaintiffs agt. the said John Francis Mercer and others defendts. and the present public employment of the said Genl. Washington rendering it impracticable that he should continue the collection of the Money produced by the said Sale, It is ordered that the Plaintiff be appointed receiver of the effects in the room of the said Genl. Washington and that he do re-

ceive as well the Money which may remain in the said General Washingtons hands as the Bonds and other Securities which he may have for the outstanding Debts and collect the money due thereupon: Provided that the said Plaintiff do execute a Bond with sufficient security to be approved of by the Court if sitting or any two Judges thereof in vacation with condition for paying such money as may come to his hands in virtue hereof according to the future decree of the Court as well in this Suit as the Suit of the said Gravat and others Plaintiffs against the said John Francis Mercer and others defendts.

A Copy teste

John Beckley C H C. Ch"

Thus far is all that is necessary to relate of my own official transaction of this business, what follows is from information and report.

Sometime after my letter of the 19th. of August to Colo. Tayloe, Mr. Lund Washington received authority from that Gentleman (but of what kind, or date, I know not, never having seen it) to collect the debts. In consequence, he received in paper Bills of credit at different times (including interest £8622.16.9¼; £3480 of which was placed (I presume by Colo. Tayloes order) in the Funds of the United States Novr. 1777, and in Octr. 1779 £5008.18.0 more was deposited in the State fund of Virginia, while £66.9.6. appear to have been employed in the payment of the Tax on money

Thus were matters circumstanced when the Interlocutory decree took the Bonds and other Securities out of my hands. What has happened since I know not, nor can any person inform you, except the Gentleman who is now vested with the collection of them, a copy of whose receipt to Mr. Lund Washington is hereunto annexed, to which might be added the

amount of my purchase at the Sale, viz, Four hundred and fifty one pounds ten shillings

What may be further necessary, on the part of Miss Wroughton and Mr. Gravat, none can better determine than Mr. Montagu. If it was in my power to render further assistance, I would, but it absolutely is not. Company, a thousand references of old matters (in the Military line), Letters to answer, and other things, have put it entirely out of my power hitherto to give the smallest attention to the business which more immediately relate, and is interesting to myself; it would be folly in the extreme therefore (even if I did not wish for, and stand in need of relaxation) to attempt to manage that of others.

I have been more prolix in this recital, especially in some part of it perhaps, than you may conceive necessary; but it is my wish that the Agency I have had from first to last in the business may be fully understood by Mr. Montagu from your report to him.

I am etc.[10]

*To THORNTON WASHINGTON

Mount Vernon, August 25, 1786.

Dear Thornton: I wrote so fully to you at the time I inclosed the Papers which respected the Land on which you live, that I did not intend to have said any thing more on the subject of Hites claim; but the other day one of the Tenants on the same land (living near the head spring of Bullskin) informed me that he had been forewarned from sowing Winter grain on his place. It will behove you to make use of all the means I put in your power to oppose their claim. I think they were ample if properly set to view, against every other claim than the original

[10] From a photostat of the original kindly loaned by Mrs. J. Clayton Mitchell, of Lloyds, Va., through Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

purchase money. If therefore you do not exert yourself in bringing these forward with such other lights as can be thrown upon them, you may not only suffer yourself, but will disappoint me; for relying entirely upon you I have taken no step to oppose the late decision of the General Court, or high Court of chancery in which the matter was determined. I understand that Commissioners are appointed who are to examine the legal objections to the judgment, where there are any. It would be well for you therefore not only to appear before these; but to get some able Lawyer to consider the papers I sent you, state the case with all the advantages it admits, and if allowed, appear in support of it. I have applied, as I wrote you in my last that I should do, to the representative of George Johnston (of whom I bought the Land) for the original Bond of Joist Hite, but it is not to be found among his Papers, and ought in my opinion to be searched after in the Proprietors Office; It being highly probable it was deposited there, as the Deed from thence recites that the Land was purchased from Hite by Thomas of whom Johnston had it.

I wish to hear from you, and to know precisely what has been, or is likely to be done in this business, a letter thrown into the line of the Winchester Post will come safe, and is better than private opportunities when the conveyance is not direct to the person. My best wishes attend you and your wife, in which the family here join I am affectionately Yrs.

PS. If your Uncle John[11] is in Berkeley, be governed by his advice in the mode of proceeding which may be best for you to adopt in exhibiting your right before the Commissioners.[12]

[11] John Augustine Washington.

[12] From a photostat of the original through the courtesy of the Bohemian Club, of San Francisco, Calif., John J. Herzog, librarian.

To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, June 29, 1788.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 2d. instant came duly to hand, and obliged me by its communications. On friday last, (by the Stage) advice of the decision of the *long* and *warmly* (with temper) contested question, in the Convention of this State, was received, 89 ayes, 79 noes, without previous amendments; and in the course of that night Colo. Henley,[13] Express from New York on his way to Richmond, arrived in Alexandria with the news of the ratification by the State of New Hampshire. This flood of good news almost at the same moment, gave, as you will readily conceive, abundant cause for rejoicing in a place, the Inhabitants of which are *all* federal. The cannon roared, and the Town was illuminated yesterday, as *magnificent* a dinner as Mr. Wise[14] could provide (to which this family were invited and went), was displayed before the principal *male* Inhabitants of the Town; whose Ears were saluted at every quaff with the melody of federal Guns. And on Monday, the business it seems is to recommence and finish, with fiddling and Dancing, for the amusement, and benefit of the Ladies.

The final question was taken on the 25th; and some recommendatory, or declaratory rights, it was supposed (by my correspondents in Richmond), would follow the ratification of the Constitution the next, or following day. As these two adoptions make ten affirmatives without a negative, and little or no question is made of North Carolina's treading in the steps of Virginia, it is hardly to be conceived that New York will reject it.

[13] Col. David Henley.
[14] Wise's Tavern, Alexandria, Va.

Rhode Island, hitherto, has so far baffled all calculation, that he must be a hardy man, indeed, who will undertake to declare what *will be* the choice of the majority of *that* State, lest he should be suspected of having participated of *their phrensy.*

The Accts. from Richmond are, that the minority will acquiesce with a good grace. Mr. Henry[15] it seems having declared that, though he cannot be *reconciled* to the Government in its *present* form, and will give it every constitutional opposition in his power; yet, that he will submit to it peaceably; as every good citizen he thinks ought; and by precept and example will endeavour, within the sphere of his action, to inculcate the like principles into others.

You have the best wishes of every one in this family, but of none in a higher degree than those of, Your Affect. friend and etc.

Pray offer my complimts. to Mr. Langdon.[16]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Baltimore, September 9, 1790.

Dear Sir: Agreeably to the information given in my last, I left Philadelphia on Monday and arrived here yesterday afternoon. To day I rest. To morrow I proceed, and hope to arrive safe at Mount Vernon on Saturday, after taking dinner at Abingdon, on our way.

In order that you may not be too fast or too slow in your removal to Philadelphia, it might be well to open a correspondence with Mr. Morris, requesting him to inform you at what time the house will be ready to receive the furniture, because it is proposed as I was informed after writing to you on Sunday

[15] Patrick Henry.

[16] John Langdon. The text of this letter is from a pencil copy in the *Henley-Smith Papers* in the Library of Congress.

last, to have the Rooms painted after Mr. Morris should have left it. I would not let the bow windows, or any other addition to the house, or any of the out buildings be any impediment to your removal, for you will have sufficient Room to stow the furniture (intended for the two large Rooms) in some other parts of the house; and for all those who will accompany you; and by being on the spot you will have it more in your power to provide wood, and make such other arrangements as shall be found necessary, than you can do at a distance, besides accomplishing the main point (that is, the removal) before the weather becomes cold and intemperate.

In my last I left it with you to decide on the propriety of bringing the Washer women. I do so still. But with respect to Mrs. Lewis and her daughter, I wish it may not be done, especially as it is in contemplation to transplant Hercules or Nathan from the Kitchen at Mount Vernon to that in Philadelphia; and because the dirty figures of Mrs. Lewis and her daughter will not be a pleasant sight in view (as the Kitchen always will be) of the principal entertaining rooms in our new habitation.

Upon a second conversation with Mr. Clark, the Coach maker, it was concluded to have the Harness for the Coach quite new and plated; and I should be glad if you would see that they are handsomely executed. He is to make harness for the pole-end as well as for the wheel horses, and promises that every thing shall be completed by the middle of November.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris have insisted upon leaving the two large looking Glasses which are in their best Rooms, because they have no place (they say) proper to remove them to, and because they are unwilling to hazzard the taking of them down. You will therefore let them have, in place of them, the choice of mine. The large ones which I purchased from the French Minister they do not incline to take; but will be glad of

some of the others. They also will leave a large Glass lamp in the entry or Hall, and will take one or more of my Glass lamps in lieu of it. In disposing of the Yards Mr Morris will take in (to the House he removes to) the part which formerly belonged to it. I mention this that you may not be surprised at the attempt. Nothing further occurs at present. Mrs. Washington unites with me in good wishes for Mrs. Lear and yourself and I am etc.[17]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Richmond, April 12, 1791.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you from Mount Vernon, your letters of the 3d. and 5th. Instant have been recd., the last at this place where I arrived yesterday to dinner.

If the case is as you suspect, it is expedient and proper to remove Washington to a School in which he will make some progress in his learning; and that it is so, I have had suspicions for some time, principally on account of his fondness of going to the College. Boys of his age are better pleased with relaxed discipline, and the inattention of their tutors, than with conduct that brings them forward. It would have been highly pleasing to me (for the reasons, which I have often expressed) to have continued Washington at the College, but, if after the enquiries you have made, it should appear, that there is either incompetency in the masters from the number of boys in the School, or from other causes, I will not waste his time in compliment to that Seminary, but before your finally decide on this matter, it is my wish as Colo. Hamilton, Genl. Knox and the Attorney-General have sons in the same predicament (if they are not removed) that you would consult and act in Concert with

[17] From *Letters and Recollections of George Washington,* edited by Louisa Lear Eyre, New York: 1906.

them; and I shall be satisfied in whatever is done in consequence of it. And should like to have him at the same School that Hamilton's son goes to.

The Attorney-General's case and mine I conceive, from a conversation I had with him respecting our Slaves, is some what different. He in order to qualify himself for practice in the Courts of Pennsylvania, was obliged to take the Oaths of Citizenship to that State; whilst my residence is incidental as an Officer of Government only, but whether among people who are in the practice of *enticing* slaves *even* where there is *no* colour of law for it, this distinction will avail, I know not, and therefore beg you will take the best advise you can on the subject, and in case it shall be found that any of my Slaves may, or any for them shall attempt their freedom at the expiration of six months, it is my wish and desire that you would send the whole, or such part of them as Mrs. Washington may not chuse to keep, home, for although I do not think they would be benefitted by the change, yet the idea of freedom might be too great a temptation for them to resist. At any rate it might, if they conceived they had a right to it, make them insolent in a State of Slavery. As all except Hercules and Paris are dower negroes, it behoves me to prevent the emancipation of them, otherwise I *shall* not only loose the use of them, but may have them to pay for. If upon taking good advise it is found expedient to send them back to Virginia, I wish to have it accomplished under pretext that may deceive both them and the Public; and none I think would so effectually do this, as Mrs. Washington coming to Virginia next month (towards the middle or latter end of it, as she seemed to have a wish to do) if she can accomplish it by any convenient and agreeable means, with the assistance of the Stage Horses &c. This would naturally bring her maid and Austin, and Hercules under the idea of coming home to *Cook* whilst we remained there, might be sent

on in the Stage. Whether there is occasion for this or not according to the result of your enquiries, or issue the thing as it may, I request that these Sentiments and this advise may be known to none but *yourself* and *Mrs. Washington.* From the following expression in your letter "that those who were of age might follow the example of his (the Attorney's people) after a residence of six months", it would seem that *none* could apply before the end of May, and that the non age of Christopher, Richmond and Oney is a bar to them.

I offer Mrs. Lear the child and yourself my best wishes, and with Sincere Esteem I am etc.[18]

*To THE SECRETARY OF WAR

(Confidential)

Philadelphia July 22, 1791.

Dear Sir: If, without disclosing the object in the smallest degree, you can come at (from Mr. William Houston[19] or through any other channel by the time you return)[20] the rate of abilities possessed by Colo. (Joseph) Habersham:[21] to what they would most usefully apply: whether he is a man of arrangement, of Industry, &ca. you would oblige me in making the enquiry. I wish also to be informed, if the means of accomplishing it should be within your reach of the *law* abilities and knowledge *generally* of Mr. *John* Houston,[22] in case circum-

[18] From *Letters and Recollections of George Washington,* edited by Louisa Lear Eyre, New York: 1906.

[19] William Houstoun (Houston), of Georgia.

[20] Knox went to New York for a few days, either July 22 or shortly thereafter.

[21] Later the Postmaster General of the United States.

[22] John Houstoun (Houston), Judge of the Superior Court of Georgia in 1792.

A "Letter of Protection" issued to the Kaskaskia Indians May 7, 1793 (a printed broadside, signed in manuscript by the President and Secretary of State), is in the Chicago Historical Society. Six other similar protections were issued the same day to other tribes.

stances might envite me to look to that quarter for an *Associate* Judge for the Supreme Court of the United States. Yours sincerely[23]

*To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, July 18, 1793.

Dear Sir: The Chief Justice and Judge Paterson are in Town. The former called upon me yesterday evening to know at what time he should receive my communications. I was embarrassed; but declared the truth, that by waiting for the Attorney General, the business wch. it was proposed to lay before them, was not fully prepared.

I shall expect to see you by Nine; And as the Judges will have to decide whether the business wch., it is proposed to ask their opinion upon is, in their judgment, of such a nature as that they can comply, it might save time if you were to draft some thing (before you come) that will bring the question properly before them.

I am always and sincerely yours

PS. As the Attorney General is not present, quere, would a verbal communication, and explanation of the wishes of Government made to them by you be better than by letter?[24]

*To THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE

Baltimore, September 11, 1795.

Dear Sir: The extreme badness of the Roads prevented my arrival at this place until nine oclock this morning, of course

[23] From a photograph of the original in Pomona College Library, Claremont, Calif., through the kindness of Ralph H. Parker, librarian.

[24] From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

In the *Historical Review of Berks County,* Pennsylvania, vol. III, No. 2, is facsimiled a brief note, in Washington's writing, dated Lebanon, Oct. 3 [1794], to William Pearce, introducing the engineer James Weston, and his wife, and requesting Pearce to make their visit to Mount Vernon "as agreeable as your situation will enable you to do."

too late for the Mail of this day. Monday therefore being next Post day, which will occasion a delay of three days, and this probably the loss of a passage to Europe of one of the sett of Letters, herewith enclosed, I have thought it best to return them by Express; and have accordingly requested the Post Master of this to do it.[25] The Express he says shall be in to-morrow night. The cost of wch you will pay. Yours always

[MS. H. S.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Chester, March 9, 1797.

My dear Sir: Thus far we have arrived safe, but found it disagreeably cold.

To give the greater surety to the large looking Glasses, and such other articles as are liable to be injured by the jolting of a dray; be so good as to have taken down by hand, and stowed where they will not be trod on; or tossed about in the Vessel's hold.

The grate (from Mr. Morris's) pray have packed first in some of the old Carpeting to keep it from scratching. The bedstead which Nelly Custis slept on belongs (Mrs. Washington says) to me. Let this and the trundle under it be sent in the Vessel.

I question whether enough of the small hooks were got; desire Mr. Dandridge to get a couple of dozen more, like the two he took out of my Room yesterday, and he was to have got me small awls, but I believe did not do it. I wish it to be done.

Mr. Hill told me he had done something (but what I do not recollect) with the livery clothes; I pray you to enquire and know they are sent around.

Mr. Slough of Lancaster had 600 dollars sent him to buy Horses: £160 of which was expended. The balance after de-

[25] See Washington's letter to the Secretary of War, September 16, 1795 (vol. 34, p. 306).

ducting incidental expenses I expected to have recd. before I left Philadelphia; but did not and forgot to mention it.

The newly published Pamphlets pray purchase, and bring with you for me; Mr. Dandridge knows what I already have. Desire Peter Porcupine's Gazette to be sent to me (as a Subscriber).

If there be means left after I have fairly and honorable discharged all the claims upon myself left Mr. Dandridge (if he should have occasion for it) have to the amount of 200 or two hundred and fifty Dollars, to provide such necessaries as he may require for his voyage to be returned when convenient to him.

When the point at which the Vessel can sail is ascertained; advise me of it by letter. I wish you and all with you, everything you wish yourselves, and am etc.

P. S. On one side I am called upon to remember the Parrot, on the other to remember the dog. For my own part I should not pine much if both were forgot.[26]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Head of Elk, March 10, 1797.

My dear Sir: We arrived at this place to dinner and shall remain all night. To morrow we shall proceed but slowly.

As I have missed the Post of this afternoon, and another does not happen until Monday it is probable this letter will not reach your hands in time. If the case however should be otherwise, and you have means to accomplish it, let me request you to provide for me as usual *new* Carpeting as will cover the floor of my blue Parlour. That it may accord with the furniture it ought to have a good deal of blue in it; and if Wilton is not much dearer

[26] From *Letters and Recollections of George Washington*, edited by Louisa Lear Eyre, New York: 1906.

than Scotch Carpeting, I would prefer the former. All the old Carpeting (belonging to me) I would have sent; and Mrs. Washington requests that you would add the Bellows and the Vessels (Iron and Tin) in which the ashes are carried out. If two pair of new Bellows were added to the old, (and of a better kind) it would be desirable.

I pray you to desire Mr. Kitt to make all the enquiry he can after Hercules, and send him round in the Vessel if he can be discovered and apprehended. I am always and Affectionately Yrs.

P. S. The parlour is about 18 foot Square, a suitable border if to be had, should accompany the Carpeting. Pray get me one of those Thermometers that tells the state of the Mercury within 24 hours, Doctor Priestly or Mr. Madison can tell where it is to be had. Perhaps the old one if nothing better, may do to present to Mr. Snowden, according to his letter to me left with you.[27]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Baltimore, March 12, 1797.

My dear Sir: As I ride on matters occur to me and I shall take the chance of mentioning them to you before you may have left Philadelphia. A boat was bespoke, but no direction given either for the payment or mode of getting it round. My credit is at stake as it respects the first, and my interest as it regards the second, and I shall be obliged to you for seeing how both can be promoted.

It is incumbent on me also to pay rent up to the time the house is surrendered, and to see that it is made clean and delivered up in good order. I have several times mentioned this to Mr. Dan-

[27] From *Letters and Recollections of George Washington*, edited by Louisa Lear Eyre, New York: 1906.

dridge and pressed it upon Mr. Kitt; and trust it will be done. The furniture belonging to the public ought to have been well cleaned, as well as the Rooms before they were turned over to the President's order, with the Papers.

Let me request the favour of you to purchase for me half a dozen pair of the best kind of White Silk stockings (not those with gores but) to be large, and with small clocks (I think they are called) I want the same number of raw silk, for boot stockings; large and strong.

In my last from Elkton I mentioned the want of a Carpet for my parlour at Mount Vernon; and observed that as the furniture was blue, the ground or principal flowers in it ought to be blue also; and that if Wilton Carpeting was not much dearer than Scotch I should prefer it. Mrs. Washington says there is a kind different from both much in use (Russia) if not dearer or but little more so than the former I would have it got. The Room is about 18 feet Square, and the Carpet should have a suitable border if to be had. This letter *may* get to your hands on Tuesday morning and on the Post of Wesnesday a line or two informing when the goods will be on board, and the Vessel will sail, will be very agreeable to My dear Sir Your Affectionate friend and Servt.[28]

*To THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mount Vernon, May 7, 1797.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 31st. Ulto enclosing draughts on the Collector of the Port of Alexandria for Three Thousand four hundred and sixty nine dollars and 20 cents, came to hand by the Post of Monday; and for so convenient and agreeable an accomodation, for the money received by you from Mr. Ross on my account, I pray you to accept my best thanks.

[28] From *Letters and Recollections of George Washington*, edited by Louisa Lear Eyre, New York: 1906

Enclosed is a receipt for the above Sum, with a certificate of its endorsation on the Bond of Matthew Ritchie Esqr, to be delivered to Mr. Ross; to whom I pray you to present my best respects, and thanks for his Agency in this business.

I must, moreover, ask the favor of Mr. Ross (if there be no deposit in the Bank of Pennsylvania previous to his leaving the City) to inform Colonl. Shreve in *decisive terms,* that I cannot submit to his trifling conduct. He has sold a part of the land for nearly the double of what he was to give me, and yet, instead of paying me according to the Instalments, he sends the money (always short) by such driblets, and in such manner as to be of no real use to me. I shall be obliged, contrary to my wishes, to put his Judgment Bond in suit, to obtain justice. And this (the Bond I mean) I would transmit to Mr. Ross before the close of the Session, if he should advise the measure. Remember us in the kindest manner to Mrs. Wolcott; and be assured, always, of the esteem and affectionate regard of, Dear Sir Your etc.

[C. H. S.]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, September 10, 1797.

Dear Sir: I have almost determined to build the Walls of the house intended for a Distillery (at my Mill) of Stone, for the sake of expedition, as the Carpenters' work can be carried on at the same time. Having this in contemplation I would thank you for informing at what price foundation stone from the falls could be delivered to a Boat as near to my Mill as the Vessel could get and whether any person would undertake the delivery there accordingly. I shall use free stone from my own Quarry for the building above the foundation.

When I was last at your house Capt. Prescott was landing a number of Shingles. Pray inform me if he has any now for sale? the length and average breadth, and the price? Is Cor-

nelius disengaged? Could he be had to assist in my building? Could any other be obtained and on what terms? In much haste dinner waiting I am etc.[29]

To WILLIAM STOY

Mount Vernon, October 14, 1797.

Sir: On Monday last, the bearer was Bit by a Small Dog belonging to a Lady in my house, then as was supposed a little diseased. And Yesternight died (I do think) in a State of madness. As soon as the Boy (Christopher) was Bit application was made to a medical Gentleman in Alexandria who has cut out so far as He could, the place Bit, applyed Ointment to keep it open, And put the Boy under a Course of Mercury

But being informed of Your success in performing cures on [mutilated] And worse cases, has induced me to send Him to You, and put Him under Your care. Trusting You will do every thing in Your Power, to prevent any bad consequences from the Bite, And have at the same time Wrote to Mr. Slough in Lancaster to pay whatever is Your charge, And whenever the Boy arrives do Write me, And Your Opinion of Him, for besides the call of Humanity, I am particularly anxious for His cure. He being my own Body servant. The Mercury will be mostly discontinued upon His leaving this place, and untill He reaches You. And am Sir Yours etc.[30]

*To CHARLES WILLIAMSON[31]

Mount Vernon, January 19, 1798.

Sir: Mr. Burwell,[32] who will present this letter to you, having become, or is likely to become, a Proprietor of Lands in the

[29] From *Letters and Recollections of George Washington,* edited by Louisa Lear Eyre, New York: 1906.

[30] In the writing of James Anderson. From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by Joseph Arnold Foster, of Ingram, Pennsylvania, who owns the original.

[31] Member of the New York Legislative Assembly.

[32] Lewis Burwell.

Genessee country, and purposing to make a tour into it; has asked me for a letter of introduction to you, who is so well acquainted therewith, and so able to give him the information he wishes to possess.

Although to do this is a liberty I am scarcely warranted to take, yet as Mr Burwell is a stranger to you, and one with whom I have had the pleasure of a long acquaintance; know his worth; the respectability of his family in this State; and that you cannot extend your usual politeness to a more deserving character, I persuade myself that I shall be excused for doing it: especially as it affords me an opportunity of assuring you, that I am etc.[33]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Thursday night, August 30, 1798.

Dear Sir: I have, at length, received the President's answer (through the Secretary of War) to my request to be allowed a Secretary, who gives it as his opinion that I have an undoubted right to one, or all of my military family, if I find it convenient, and that their pay &c. will be allowed.

And the Secretary having thrown a *mass* of Papers upon me which I have not looked into (being this moment arrived) I should be glad if you would now come and take your station. Yrs. always and Affectly.[34]

To TOBIAS LEAR

Mount Vernon, March 26, 1799.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 24th. Inst. enclosing one from Major Rivardi was delivered to me last night.

It gives me pleasure that you are recovering from your lameness, and repeat the wish contained in my last that you would

[33] From a photostat of the original in the Edward E. Ayer Collection in the Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.

[34] From *Letters and Recollections of George Washington,* edited by Louisa Lear Eyre, New York: 1906.

use the means for perfect restoration, and remain as long with Doctr. Thornton as he may conceive advisable.

With respect to the letter from Major Rivardi, it would be proper to send it, by my direction, to Genl. Hamilton that he may issue such orders in consequence thereof as to him shall appear to suit the occasion; informing the Major thereof. Refering him to my former letter for the mode of his communications in future.

Mrs. Washington has had (it is now better) a very bad Cold in other respects the family are as well as usual, and unite with me in good wishes for you and Complts. to Doctr. Thornton's family. I am etc.

P. S. If you should happen to see Mr. Blagden, pray ask him when he expects to be in mortar, in other words, when he expects to lay the foundation stone.[35]

To JOHN HALSEY

Mount Vernon, December 13, 1799.

Sir: I lately received a letter from J. M. Pintard, Esqr. in which he mentioned that he had some Madeira Wine of a very superior quality, which he had sent to this Country, six years since, for his own use, that, as he had no immediate occasion for it, he would let General Washington have one or two pipes, at three dollars per Gallon, which, if wanted, might be had on application to you, in whose hands the wine was.

In consequence thereof I wrote the enclosed answer to Mr. Pintard; but am apprehensive that he might have left the Country before it reached him. I have therefore taken the liberty of troubling you on this occasion; and if you should think proper to send to the General one pipe of the wine mentioned,

[35] From *Letters and Recollections of George Washington*, edited by Louisa Lear Eyre, New York: 1906.

upon the terms expressed in the letter to Mr. Pintard, your draft for the amount, at ninety days sight, will be duly honored.

I am etc.

P. S. You will be Pleased to address your answer to His Excelly Genl. Washington, and in case the wine should be ship'd for Alexandria, let it be put in a part of the Vessel where it cannot be readily come at in the passage.[36]

*MEMORANDUM

Of painting and mixing colours.

[Undated.]

1st. Take any colour (except Verdigrise) grind it on a stone, with oil, Arsenic and lime stone, pour turpentine varnish on it, mix it through each other, and paint with it, if it dries too fast &ca. add boiled linseed oil, till it has the gloss.

2d Take whiting, chalk or anything of that nature, grind it on a stone, with any colour in oil and some vitriol, pour turpentine varnish on it, when thick, thin it with spirits of Turpentine which will make it fit for use, and superior to the part of lime stone mentioned before.

3d To make superfine Verdigrise, take blue Vitriol, any quantity, boil it in a kettle, until all dissolved, also have dissolving in another kettle, at the sametime three fourths of the weight of vitriol and of Pearl ashes, and to every ten pounds of vitriol one pound of white Arsenic, when all dissolved, pour the Pearl ashes and Arsenic in a Cask, and pour on your Vitriol, have it well stirred as you pour in and it is done.

4th In making rose or yellow Pink, take black Oak bark, as much as you please, boil it over a fire until the liquor is strong, then put some alum in it, pour it on whiting and it is done.

[36] This letter is in the handwriting of Tobias Lear. From a photostat of the draft kindly furnished by the American Autograph Shop, Merion Station, Pennsylvania.

Also is rose Pink made with Brazil wood and Alum as beforementioned.

5th In ornamenting of colours, take a cork cut on what figure you please, tip it on a soft brush with colour, press it on whatever you please, it will leave it.[37]

*To ——— ———

Mount Vernon, January 20, 1771.

Dear Sir: As there has happened several very considerable, and not less surprizing changes respecting the Lands West of the Allegany Mountains since our Flattering prospect about this time twelve months, indeed since the meeting of the Officers at Fredericksburg in August last, I think it indispensably necessary that we shoud have another meeting, in order to fix upon some settled plan of operation under our present discouragements, or resolve to let our pretensions Sleep till happier times, for this purpose I have appointed a meeting at Winchester on the first Monday in March next (being the 4th. of the Month) which will allow us as long time to receive further information of the New Charter Government as we ought to delay finishing the Work (begun last Fall) of Surveying. I hope this time and place will be convenient to you as I coud heartily wish for a full meeting of the Parties concernd, that something conclusive may be the result of it.

In full confidence then of seeing you upon this occasion, I defer giving any Acct. of my journey to the Ohio and passage down the River till I enjoy this satisfaction, this Letter being intended as nothing more than an advertiser of the meeting, in case you shoud not see my notification thereof in the Gazettes. In the mean time I remain Dr Sir Yr most obed. Servt.[38]

[37] From a photostat of the original kindly furnished by the American Autograph Shop, Merion Station, Pennsylvania.

[38] The editor is indebted to Mrs. Innis C. Davis, State historian and archivist, Charleston, W. Va., for the text of this letter. (Received too late for proper classification in the Appendix.)

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